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National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21*

Sudan

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Introduction

1. This, the second report of the Sudan, underscores the country's respect for and commitment to the outcomes of the universal periodic review process as established under General Assembly resolution 60/251 and Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1, 16/21 and 17/19. The report covers the efforts made by the Sudan to follow up on the outcomes of that review, the plans put in place to ensure that human rights continue to be protected and promoted, and the tangible achievements made in that regard. In particular, it focuses on developments in the protection and promotion of human rights since the first report was submitted, on the implementation of the recommendations which the Sudan accepted and on the obstacles the country faces and which stand in the way of further improvements.

I. Methodology for follow-up to the universal periodic review and report preparation process

A. Methodology for follow-up to the universal periodic review

2. Since the presentation of the previous report, the Sudan has been working to implement the outcomes of the review. Under Decree No. 3 of 21 December 2011, the Minister of Justice, who is also director of the Advisory Council for Human Rights, created a committee made up of the bodies which had drafted that report, along with other bodies, under the chairmanship of the rapporteur of the Advisory Council for Human Rights. The committee drew up an action plan for the fulfilment of the country's obligations under the universal periodic review, which was made public via the media. The recommendations were listed and sent to the relevant authorities for implementation. The committee also organized 15 workshops in 15 of the country's provinces with representatives from civil society organizations and other bodies concerned with human rights, as a way of reinforcing the principle of national consultation and participation. In 2013 the Sudan submitted its voluntary mid-term report to the Human Rights Council universal periodic review mechanism setting forth the implementation status of the recommendations.

B. Report preparation and consultation process

3. In preparing the present report the Sudan has adhered to a methodology of consultation and participation, as per the relevant United Nations guidelines. The State adopted an action plan which included:

(a) The formation of a higher national committee to oversee the preparation of the first draft of the report and to review the final version;

(b) The formation of a technical committee to prepare the first draft of the report;

(c) The formation of a committee of experts to draw up the report.

4. The consultation process began in December 2011 with meetings and workshops to explain the universal periodic review. After that the specialized committees began meeting to carry out their tasks while the Advisory Council for Human Rights collected the necessary information. Two workshops were subsequently organized to review the draft of the report. The first of these involved civil society organizations and 70 such organizations were directly invited to participate while the event was also announced over the media. Twenty-four NGOs working in the field on human rights also took part. The second workshop was held with the National High Commissioner for Human Rights and

government departments. During the meetings all sides took an active part in developing the contents of the report.[1]

II. Developments in the promotion and protection of human rights

A. Legislative developments

5. Since the first report was endorsed, the Sudan has issued a series of laws to promote fundamental freedoms and protect human rights. The most important of these are:

The Anti-Human Trafficking Act of 2014

6. The Anti-Human Trafficking Act was passed in 2014. It is consistent with the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery. The new law criminalizes all forms of human trafficking, provides legal protection for victims and ensures respect for their rights.

The Freedom of Information Act of 2015

7. The enactment of this piece of legislation is a reflection of the State's concern to ensure freedom in the access to and handling of information which, under this law, is protected as a basic right. This reflects General Assembly resolution 59 (1) which describes freedom of information as a fundamental human right, Human Rights Council resolution 7/37 and others.

The Act establishing the Educational Professions Council of 2014

8. The issuing of the Act establishing the Educational Professions Council is a way to promote the right to education and to develop and promote the teaching professions, in light of the fact that education is a fundamental right.

The Asylum Act of 2014

9. This new, comprehensive and flexible law, which abrogates the Asylum Act of 1974, draws from the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its attendant Protocol signed in New York in 1967, and the Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa adopted by the African Union in 1969.

The Mineral Wealth and Mining Development Act of 2015

10. The Act, which regulates mining operations and contains provision for the formation of the Higher Mining Council, reflects the fact that mineral wealth is considered to be a national resource. Under the new law, persons who work in the mining sector are required to abide by the environmental conditions laid down by the Ministry of Minerals, because living in a clean and natural environment is a human right. The Act also sets forth the social obligations of companies operating in the mining sector.

[1] Annex 1 gives details about the report preparation process and the consultations and contacts, as well as a list of names of those consulted.

The Criminal Code

11. The Code was amended in 2015 with the addition of the offence of sexual harassment and the separation of the offence of rape from that of adultery in article 149, thereby removing all ambiguity and ensuring just and fair treatment for victims. Two paragraphs were added to article 88: paragraph (a) which makes it a crime for public officials to abuse their office or authority, and paragraph (b) which defines a public official as anyone who works in a legislative, executive, administrative or judicial capacity, whether appointed or elected.

The Elections Act

12. This Act was amended in 2014 to increase the proportion of women from 25 per cent to 30 per cent and to improve geographical and proportional representation in order to widen participation.

The Transparency, Integrity and Anti-Corruption Act of 2016

13. This Act, which was endorsed by the National Assembly (parliament) in January 2016, is consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption. It contains provision for the formation of an independent anti-corruption commission with specific powers and prerogatives, it also defines what constitutes corruption, the measures that should be taken to combat it and the judicial sanctions offenders face.

The Health Insurance Act of 2016

14. This Act replaces the National Health Insurance Fund Act of 2001. It extends health insurance coverage and underscores the State's resolve to assist the weaker strata of society, especially persons with disabilities who, under the Act, are to be provided with assistive and curative devices.

B. Institutional developments (the formation of mechanisms), these include the following

The National Human Rights Commission

15. The 15 members of the National Human Rights Commission were appointed during the period covered by the report. Their appointment complied with article 142 of the Constitution whereby the members have to be independent, competent, non-partisan, impartial, and as broadly representative as possible.

The National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking

16. The National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking was created on 30 April 2014 pursuant to Ministerial Decree No. 187 of 2014 and in accordance with the Anti-Human Trafficking Act of 2014. The aim was to form a body responsible for coordinating efforts to combat human trafficking and to provide assistance to victims at the national level, as well as for coordinating with relevant regional and international bodies.

17. There were 213 criminal cases of human trafficking in the eastern provinces of the Sudan and 26 in Khartoum province in the years 2014-2015. A number of cases have been handled in coordination with other bodies such as the Commission for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration, thanks to which 614 victims of human trafficking of various nationalities have received assistance.

18. A regional ministerial conference on the trafficking and smuggling of persons in the Horn of Africa was held in Khartoum from 13-16 October 2014, the intention being to address this phenomenon in its international and regional dimensions. One of the outcomes of the conference was the publication of the Khartoum Declaration which was adopted at a meeting in Rome at the end of 2014.

C. Strategy and policy developments

The National Quarter-Century Strategy

19. The National Quarter-Century Strategy for 2007-2031 was adopted using an approach commonly followed in strategic planning. Institutions were created to draw up, implement and follow up on strategic plans and to involve leading figures in society as well as State and non-State institutions, in order to create a consensual overarching vision which could be applied to the National Quarter-Century Strategy. The Strategy aims to create the conditions for a free, dignified life, and comprehensive justice by promoting social peace and pacific coexistence in order protect the land, people and resources of the Sudan.

The National Plan to Promote and Protect Human Rights in the Sudan (2013-2023)

20. The aim of the Plan is to develop human rights and provide them with a firm legislative foundation, to apply the principles of equality and non-discrimination in the enjoyment of rights and to raise awareness about human rights. It also contemplates introducing legal reforms, harmonizing national legislation with the regional and international obligations of the Sudan, building partnerships with civil society organizations, strengthening cooperation and coordination with law enforcement bodies and formulating a plan for follow-up and implementation.

III. The effective promotion and protection of human rights

A. The right to health

21. The State has developed a five-year strategic plan 2012-2016 setting forth health priorities, foremost among them comprehensive health care coverage. The strategic plan includes annual plans which are in the course of being implemented. An anti-malaria plan — malaria being one of the principle causes of death in the Sudan — has been extended to cover 4,912 public health institutions which offer free treatment for malaria. That represents 85 per cent of all public health institutions in the country. At the same time, 1,131 local communities have malaria home treatment services run by volunteers. Rapid malaria tests are available at 2,933 public health institutions covering 90.9 per cent of the targeted population while 92 per cent of the targeted population — including dwellers in rural areas surrounding cities, displaced persons, refugees and nomadic persons — have been provided with impregnated mosquito nets, a total of 11 million long-lasting insecticidal nets having been distributed between 2012 and 2015. The number of persons infected with malaria dropped by 72 per cent in 2014 while deaths from the disease in the same period dropped by 62 per cent.[2]

22. With encouragement from the State and the cooperation of partners, associations of persons living with HIV/AIDS have been set up and registered, while HIV/AIDS services

[2] Details about the number of cases of malaria and deaths from the disease, as registered in State health institutions between the years 2000 and 2014, are to be found in tables 1 and 2 of annex 2.

have been incorporated into health care services at all levels. Furthermore, a bill has been drafted guaranteeing full constitutional rights for persons living with HIV/AIDS.

23. In the area of social benefits, the State helps citizens to meet the costs of treatment via a number of programmes including free care in hospital emergency departments during crisis situations as well as free treatment for diseases which lead to the impoverishment of families. Free treatment is also made available thanks to programmes which receive support from abroad.[3]

24. In 2014-2015, in order to expand basic health-care services, 337 units and centres catering for family health were built, equipped and staffed with qualified personnel in various provinces of the Sudan. Moreover, in November 2015, contracts were signed to fit out 97 hospitals in rural areas with operating theatres, delivery rooms, blood banks and laboratories, the full costs being met by the Government. The hospitals, fitted with all the necessary equipment, will be handed over by the end of the first half of 2016. According to reports of the World Health Organization, the Sudan is one of the best countries in the Eastern Mediterranean and North Africa region as regards the vaccination of children.

25. The health insurance system covers a broad swathe of persons who work in the public and private sector, as well as retirees. The aim of the system is to meet the costs of health care and treatment of those persons and such members of their families as are also covered by the health insurance.[4]

B. The right to food

26. The State has plans and programmes in place to help Sudanese citizens access adequate food. A three-year programme 2011-2014 has been adopted as well as an agricultural revival programme focusing on food and cash crops. Thanks to these measures the production of the crops involved has doubled.[5]

27. A national food security and nutrition charter was issued in 2013 as was the second stage national strategy for 2012-2016.[6]

C. The right to clean water and sanitation

28. A strategic plan has been drawn up, and is currently being implemented, to improve water and sanitation services at the national and provincial level over the period 2012-2016. The aim of the plan is to ensure that Sudanese citizens can access safe and clean water, and adequate sanitation. The State is making particular efforts in cities suffering water shortages and a number of projects have been launched including the building of dams, filtration plants and wells. By the start of 2015, 70 per cent of the population had access to drinking water (80 per cent in rural areas and 60 per cent in cities). During the period 2010-2014, as part of its water-harvesting programme, the Government implemented 345 distribution projects throughout the provinces — including 291 dams and boreholes thanks to which

[3] Details about social benefits for the period 2012-2014 are contained in the table in annex 3.

[4] Details about health insurance beneficiaries in the period 2011-2014 are contained in the table in annex 4.

[5] The table in annex 5 gives a breakdown of the production of target crops in the three-year programme, comparing the situation in 2012 with the initial situation in 2011.

[6] See annex 6 which contains a table giving details about food grains for the period 2013-2014, and annex 7 showing industrial production for the period 2012-2014.

86.3 million cubic metres of rainwater have been harvested — as well as 54 other water service projects.[7]

D. The right to housing

29. In the period 2005-2014 the National Fund for Housing and Construction, via its branch offices in various provinces of the Sudan, built 97,000 housing units. Six provinces have been selected to continue with the first stage and a sum of 611 million Sudanese pounds has been allocated for the construction of 7,178 housing units, 83 per cent of which have been completed.

30. In order to address the problem of unregulated housing, two cities have been established north and south of Khartoum made up of 500,000 units with full services including water, health care, schools, roads and police stations. They are intended to accommodate persons who had been evicted following a social survey carried out with full regard for humanitarian aspects. By the year 2014 more than 72,000 dwellings had been completed.[8]

E. The right to development

31. In accordance with the National Quarter-Century Strategy for 2007-2031, and despite the enormous challenges the Sudan is facing, a number of advanced development projects were put into place during the period 2013-2014 in various different fields. Power generation projects were implemented in big cities while also taking account of the rural electricity supply,[9] and this has contributed to the development of the industrial, agricultural, trade and housing sectors. The long-term plan for the electricity sector 2012-2030 is going a long way to resolving the power supply problem by setting up generating plants, power lines and distribution equipment. The intention is that by the end of the plan, everyone should have access to the electricity distribution network.[10]

32. The State continues to build housing and to offer vital services in areas affected by the construction or heightening of dams.[11] It also requires companies active in the mining and petroleum sectors to exercise social responsibility towards local communities.[12]

F. The right to work

33. The findings of a workforce survey to determine levels of employment and participation in economic life among men and women made public in April 2012. Among its more significant results, the survey showed that economic participation among both

[7] The table in annex 8 includes details about dam and water-harvesting projects and the five-year sanitation plan, which are currently being implemented. Annex 9 includes a table on the water supply to the provinces for the years 2011 to 2013. Annex 10 contains a table explaining the production and demand for water up to 2013.

[8] See annex 11.

[9] Annex 12 includes a table outlining power distribution projects, while annex 13 gives details about electricity production in the years 2013-2014.

[10] Annex 14 includes two tables explaining developments in energy production, manufacturing capacity, power lines and numbers of energy suppliers.

[11] Annex 15 gives an outline of the services offered in the resettlement resulting from the project to increase the height of the Roseires Dam and the project affecting the people of Atbara and Setit.

[12] Annex 16 explains the social responsibilities of extractive industries.

sexes increased from 39.3 per cent in 1999 to 43 per cent in 2011. The number of people reliant on paid work jumped to 40.1 per cent, standing at 43.6 per cent for men and 29.4 per cent for women.

34. In 2011 the State launched a nationwide project to incorporate graduates from universities and institutes of higher education into government institutions. This project reflects the State's policy to build capacity at the provincial level and to provide sufficient staff to that end, thereby responding to demands to devolve authority and supply additional resources to the provinces. Eleven thousand eight hundred and ninety graduates found employment in the State sector in 2012, 23,541 in 2013 and 14,448 in 2014.[13]

35. A project to involve young people in labour-intensive employment was launched at the beginning of 2013 with support from the IBSA Group (India, Brazil and South Africa) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The project targets 2,000 young people, both skilled and unskilled, and trains them in the professions of waste recycling and road maintenance. It is currently being implemented in the province of Khartoum but will be extended to the provinces of Western and Southern Kordofan and Darfur.

G. The right to education

36. There has been a noticeable improvement in the exercise of this right on the ground as the State has been making great efforts to improve attendance levels in general education by building new classrooms and schools, and meeting other requirements. These provisions are in keeping with the five-year plan 2012-2016, the decisions taken at the World Education Forum held in Dakar in 2000 and the Millennium Development Goals. In 2013, a global partnership agreement to promote basic education was signed between the Government of the Sudan and the donor support fund, the aim being to increase access to school education for all children[14] with a particular focus on children in rural schools, girls and other marginalized groups such as displaced and nomadic persons. Other aims include reducing school dropout rates, increasing attendance opportunities and ensuring that pupils remain at school during their basic education.[15] The project to strengthen basic education, which began in 2013, includes the construction of 2,000 classrooms, of which 608 had been built by 2014, and the distribution of education grants to 800 pupils, of which 463 have so far been disbursed. The project is due to come to an end in 2017. Child-friendly school standards have been applied in 300 schools to ensure that children receive their education in a safe environment.

37. Education strategies for girls (2014-2016), nomadic persons and children with disabilities (2013-2016) have all been updated.

38. The eastern provinces (Gedaref, Kassala and Red Sea), where school attendance is lower, have undertaken to follow a policy of food for education whereby pupils are provided with a meal and their families receive material support. As a result enrolment has increased by up to 80 per cent in some areas.

[13] The table in annex 17 shows the number of graduates incorporated into government service in the years 2011-2014.

[14] The table in annex 18 shows the number of pupils enrolled in the first level of basic education and in secondary education, as well pupils with disabilities in basic and secondary education, for the period 2011-2014.

[15] The table in annex 19 gives details about schools for nomadic persons and the number of pupils attending them in the period 2011-2014.

39. Under Ministerial Decree No. 9 of 26 May 2014, a higher national committee has been formed to implement the national plan for human rights education. The committee has the following tasks:

- Following up on the national plan for human rights education;
- Implementing national commitments in the field of human rights education;
- Authorizing and funding projects under the plan;
- Implementing national awareness-raising programmes among educators;

40. The State is working to create an advanced electronic learning environment.

H. The right to culture

41. Presidential Decree No. 53 of 2013 sought to promote this right by separating the Ministry of Culture from the Ministry of Information.

42. In 2013, the Ministry of Culture launched the "Cultural Mapping" project the aim of which is to identify, preserve and administer cultural heritage in order to promote sustainable economic and social development and to stimulate national diversity in all sectors of society. The relevance of the project lies in the immensity of the Sudan's cultural legacy and the pluralism and diversity which characterize cultural expression in the country, including languages, customs, beliefs, visual arts, literature, etc. The project is being implemented in coordination with the office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Khartoum.[16]

43. Projects have been adopted at the national level focusing on the provincial capitals, the aim being to stimulate cultural activities vertically between capitals and horizontally among the provinces themselves:

- The Kadugli Project (Southern Kordofan) made that city heritage capital for 2015. Before that, the city of Geneina in Western Darfur was Sudanese cultural capital in 2012;
- The Sennar Project made that city Islamic cultural capital for 2017;
- Arrangements for the candidacy of the city of Port Sudan as Sudanese Arab cultural capital have begun in accordance with decisions taken by the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization.

44. A survey on folklore was carried out in the period 2012-2015, in the provinces of Southern Kordofan, Blue Nile, Western Darfur and Sennar.

I. The rights of women

45. The State takes steps to protect and safeguard women, and grants them rights equal to those of men in many areas of life, without discrimination, particularly as regards civil, political and cultural freedoms and rights, the right to education, health care, property and freedom of expression, and the right to form public interest groups. These rights are put into effect on the ground by various State institutions (see paras. 63 to 66).

[16] See annex 20 for information about the number of theatres, youth centres, registered sporting clubs, premier league clubs, stadiums, sports fields and swimming pools during the period 2011-2014.

J. The rights of children

46. One of the most important advances in the promotion of children's rights was the creation in 2014 of an information management system for monitoring and follow-up on the implementation of strategic polices aimed at children, thanks to a partnership between the Advisory Council for Human Rights and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), with the cooperation of the National Centre for Information and the Central Statistical Office.

47. Statistics for the year 2013 show that 44,821 children between the ages of 6 and 13 who had dropped out of school re-enrolled in basic education, thanks to the accelerated education programme.

48. The number of primary health care facilities offering integrated management of childhood illnesses rose from 2,198 to 2,556 in 2013. Those facilities are operational in 113 of the 184 targeted districts.

49. The National Council for Child Welfare has adopted a new methodology for the implementation of the five-year child welfare plan 2012-2016. Beginning in 2014, it has instituted annual plans under which all child welfare activities are integrated into cooperation agreements with donors which serve the goals of the five-year plan. During 2013, more than 7,182 children who had contact with the law — whether as victims, witnesses or offenders — were able to benefit from the services provided by the police family and child protection units, which comply with child protection standards.

50. During the course of 2013, child protection working groups were set up under the leadership of child welfare councils in the provinces and with members drawn from organizations active in the field of child protection. They are working to address the problems children face in three regions affected by armed conflict.[17]

K. International and regional cooperation

51. The Sudan is committed to cooperating with international human rights mechanisms and special procedures with thematic and country mandates. During the reporting period, the country received three independent experts on the human rights situation in the Sudan: the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights. The country is also committed to cooperating with regional mechanisms, and delegations from the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and from the Arab Human Rights Committee visited the Sudan and received all the cooperation and assistance they needed from the Sudanese Government.

IV. State of implementation of recommendations

52. The Sudan fully accepted 121 and partially accepted 12 recommendations. The state of implementation of those recommendations is as follows:

[17] The table in annex 21 gives indicators relating to the principal cases concerning children.

A. Accession to international instruments

Recommendations 83.1, 83.5, 83.6, 83.7, 83.8, 83.9, 83.10, 83.11, 83.12, 83.13 and 83.14

53. In 2013, in order to promote and strengthen the legislative framework underpinning human rights, the State ratified the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, while in September 2014 it ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Moreover, by decree of the Minister of Justice, committees have been formed to study the possibility of acceding to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. A committee has also been created to examine the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

B. Ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Recommendation 83.2

54. The Sudan ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1986 and duly presents reports and holds discussions with international and regional committees in that regard. In fact, it submitted its fourth periodic report under article 40 of the Covenant before the Human Rights Committee in Geneva on 3 and 4 July 2014.

C. Constitutional and legal framework

Recommendations 83.18, 83.19, 83.28, 83.29, 83.30 and 83.33

55. As of 2011, work began on drafting a permanent Constitution. The process has involved all stakeholders, including the executive, the legislature, political forces, civil society organizations, academic institutions, representatives of women and young people as well as local authorities and other grass-roots components of society. One of the recommendations to emerge from the consultations and workshops was, at the very least, to maintain the existing Bill of Rights contained in the current Interim National Constitution. This comprehensive national dialogue, which excluded no one, was harmonized on 10 October 2015 when a road map was drawn up setting forth six strands for future dialogue — including basic rights and freedoms, governance and implementation mechanisms — which it was hoped would lead to a permanent Constitution for the country. On 24 December 2015, the National Dialogue Governance Committee unanimously agreed to the draft of a new Constitution which enshrines the independence of the judiciary, the rule of law, the separation of powers and good governance.

56. The State remains committed to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and since the 2011 referendum, which led to self-determination for South Sudan, the authorities have been careful to abide by its terms. Despite remaining challenges, which revolve around the referendum in the Abyei region and are due to a disagreement on the interpretation of the law, both parties (the Government of the Sudan and the Government of South Sudan) are seeking to resolve their differences through amicable negotiations. Negotiations regarding Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile are continuing under the auspices of high-level mechanisms of the African Union.

57. In November 2015 the Minister of Justice issued a number of decrees for the formation of committees to review 63 pieces of legislation which were to be amended as

part of a programme of State reform pursuant to Decree No. 140 of 2015 issued by the Council of Ministers. The laws to be reviewed by those committees include the 1991 Criminal Code, the 1983 Code of Civil Procedure, the 2009 Press and Publications Act and the 2010 National Security Act.

D. Recommendations concerning the rights of children

Recommendations 83.33, 83.46, 83.63, 83.64, 83.65, 83.66, 83.67, 83.68, 83.94, 83.95, 83.96, 83.97, 83.98, 83.99, 83.100, 83.101, 83.111, 83.112 , 83.113, 83.114, 83.115, 83.148, 83.149, 83.150, 83.152 and 83.153

58. In the area of policy and strategy the following measures have been taken: a charter of children's rights has been drafted for inclusion in the forthcoming Constitution and national strategies have been developed aimed at preventing child marriage, helping children in early childhood and protecting the children of female prisoners.

59. Implementing regulations for the Child Act were issued in 2013. They cover a number of important questions such as kindergartens, the treatment of child victims, the regulation of child labour, referral outside the judicial system, breastfeeding, etc. A social monitoring system has been set up in a number of courts to oversee the application of penalties other than detention, while the system of referral outside the judicial system has begun to be applied in four provinces.

60. The Public Prosecutor has established 18 offices to oversee investigations carried out by the police unit for the protection of families and children. Also, 18 children's courts have been set up to examine cases involving child victims of crime. The staff of these judicial institutions has received training in the principles and procedures followed in juvenile courts and the treatment of offenders. Moreover, mechanisms are available to provide psychological and social support to children, whether offenders, victims or witnesses.

61. The Ministry of the Interior has set up 39 police units for the protection of families and children at the provincial and district level. They are responsible for conducting investigations into offences committed against children and for implementing measures to ensure that children are protected against violations of any kind.

62. The Civil Registration Act was issued in 2011. The Act makes the registration of births obligatory and sets forth the provisions necessary for the fulfilment of that obligation. The use of civil registration procedures has been generalized throughout the provinces of the Sudan and a national strategy has been formulated to develop those procedures and to collect vital statistics.

63. A section for the protection of children in situations of emergency and conflict was set up in 2014. The Sudan has focused on nine international standards in its response to children in situations of emergency and armed conflict. One of those standards concerns children associated with armed groups.

64. Article 4 of the Children's Act of 2010 sets the age of criminal responsibility for children at 12 years. The Act also defines a child as anyone under the age of 18 and, in article 69, sets forth the punitive measures which may be applied to child offenders, which do not include imprisonment, corporal punishment, death or any other penalty. The Constitutional Court has developed a general constitutional principle whereby the Children's Act 2010 is given the status of a special law which prevails over all general laws. In that context we may mention Constitutional Court ruling No. 51/2013 and Supreme Court rulings No. 199/2014, 173/2014 and 203/2014.

65. Thanks to a partnership between the National Council for Child Welfare and UNICEF, on 3 December 2015 agreement was reached on the final draft of a plan of action between the Republic of the Sudan and the United Nations to protect children in areas affected by armed conflict. This important step aims to move towards the removal of the name of the Sudan from the list of States which recruit child soldiers and involve them in armed conflict issued by the United Nations Secretary-General on 11 June 2012. The plan of action has now been submitted for signature.

66. Article 43 of the Children's Act prohibits the recruitment and employment of children in the armed forces or in armed groups, or their involvement in hostilities.

67. All laws relating to the military, such as the Armed Forces Act of 2007, the Police Act of 2008 and the National Service Act of 2013 state that recruits must not be less than 18 years of age.

68. Article 36 of the Children's Act 2010 prohibits the employment of children under 14 while the work of children over that age is governed by chapter VIII of the same Act. Similar provisions are also contained in the Labour Code of 1997 under which children may not be employed at night or in hazardous work. Regulations have been drafted which, in accordance with the list produced by the International Labour Organization, identify jobs which are prohibited for children.

E. Recommendations concerning the rights of women

Recommendations 83.77, 83.78, 83.79, 83.80, 83.81, 83.82, 83.83 and 83.84

69. The National Quarter-Century Strategy for 2007-2031 advocates the participation of women in a wholesale revival of society. One of the central elements of the Strategy is, in fact, the empowerment of women.

70. The State's concern in this regard has led it to create various frameworks as well as seven official national mechanisms to empower women and promote their role in society.

71. The national policy for the empowerment of women — which was adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2007 and has been used as a reference for the Constitution, national laws and regional and international treaties — has been updated for the period 2015-2016, with the help of development partners. Projects included in the policy aim to address issues such as education, health care, the environment, economic empowerment, human rights law, political participation and decision-making, and peace and conflict resolution. A detailed outline of a national policy to empower women has been proposed, incorporated into the second five-year plan (2012-2016) and sent out to districts and provinces.

72. The participation of women in the national legislature in 2015 was as follows. There were 131 female members of the National Assembly which has a total number of seats of 450, and there were 16 female members, out of a total of 56, of the Council of States.

F. Political measures

Recommendations 83.47, 83.48, 83.49, 83.50, 83.52, 83.53, 83.54, 83.55, 83.56, 83.57, 83.58, 83.59, 83.60, 83.61, 83.62, 83.63, 83.64, 83.65, 83.66, 83.67, 83.68 and 83.69

73. Following the 2014 amendments to electoral law, the people of Sudan helped to reinforce the foundations of democracy by participating in the April 2015 elections and the peaceful transfer of power. The proportion of women in parliament went up from 25 to 30 per cent and more than 40 political parties participated, representing all sectors of society.

74. The promotion of democracy and good governance is one of the most important topics to be addressed by the comprehensive national dialogue.

75. The approval in May 2013 of the National Plan to Promote and Protect Human Rights in the Sudan (2013-2023) means that human rights principles and goals are taken into consideration in all policies and action plans. The National Plan, which has begun to be implemented in accordance with the indicators, timetables and major themes set forth in the plan itself, includes eight themes:

(a) Promoting the principle of human rights education;

(b) Civil and political rights;

(c) Economic, social and cultural rights;

(d) Reviewing national legislation;

(e) Raising awareness and disseminating knowledge about human rights and international humanitarian law;

(f) Strengthening ties with international and regional committees and bodies;

(g) Building partnerships with civil society organizations;

(h) Strengthening cooperation and coordination with law enforcement agencies.

76. One of the aims of the legislative review being undertaken as part of the reform programme instituted by the State pursuant to Decree No. 140 of 2015 of the Council of Ministers is to bring legislation into line with human rights principles and international humanitarian law.

77. The plan of the Advisory Council for Human Rights for the years 2014 and 2015 includes a number of training programmes and activities to promote and disseminate human rights awareness. The first stage of the plan focused on human rights education while the Minister of Justice, who is also director of the Advisory Council, issued a decree appointing a human rights consultant to the Minister of Education.

78. On the subject of recommendation 83.52 concerning the rights of South Sudanese, citizens of that neighbour country who are resident in the Republic of the Sudan enjoy all their human rights. Pursuant to the directives of the President of the Republic, they are treated on a par with Sudanese citizens and they face no difficulties nor suffer any detriment on account of their nationality. Under the Sudanese Nationality Act of 2009, amended in 2011, they are granted a transitional period in which to settle their affairs pursuant to the legal system of their own independent State and of agreements concluded between the two parties.

G. The rights of persons with disabilities

Recommendations 83.85 and 83.88

79. The Sudan has ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and has formed a national council and provincial councils to oversee the welfare of that category of persons. The State has also taken steps to improve education opportunities for persons with disabilities, such as allowing them to be admitted to State schools on the basis of half grades. A number of sign language programmes have been introduced and a children's section has been created in the National Centre for Child Culture. Moreover, the authorities seek to develop such children's creativity and work to ensure that the Sudan is represented on relevant international and regional forums.

80. The State has taken a number of steps to address the effects of poverty, providing poor persons with income-generating projects and integrating them into the health insurance system. Under the Persons with Disabilities Act of 2009, a certain proportion of land in the public housing scheme is assigned to persons with disabilities.

81. The National Election Commission has issued various directives to ensure that persons with disabilities are able to participate in political life. Approval was recently given for a strategic action plan promoting appropriate employment and economic empowerment for persons with disabilities in the period 2015-2020.

H. The participation of civil society organizations in the implementation of recommendations emerging from the universal periodic review

Recommendation 83.76

82. Civil society organizations are represented on the Advisory Council for Human Rights which coordinated the drafting of this report. They also participated in 15 provincial workshops on the implementation of recommendations emerging from the universal periodic review and were involved in a further workshop organized to implement recommendations concerning legal reform and the administration of justice. In the fields of education, awareness-raising and training in human rights, 45 workshops were held in 2014 thanks to coordination between the Ministry of Justice, civil society organizations and the National Human Rights Commission, in addition to 53 other activities to improve the effectiveness of child protection workers in the provinces of the Sudan.

I. The infrastructure of human rights institutions

Recommendations 83.34, 83.36, 83.37, 83.40 and 83.53

83. The Government of the Sudan is always willing to cooperate with the international community and strives to fulfil its commitment to support political transition in the post-referendum phase. For its part, the international community has an obligation to uphold the pledges it made in that regard, although its response in that regard has been weak.

84. UNDP has helped the Sudan in its efforts to disseminate awareness and to foster the principle of participation and consultation in the drafting of the new Constitution, and public forums on the subject have been held in 15 provinces of the Sudan. Also in cooperation with UNDP, a number of provincial workshops were organized on various major themes such as the implementation in the provinces of recommendations emerging from the universal periodic review, the administration of justice and legal reform including the Children's Act and the Elections Act.

J. The National Human Rights Commission

Recommendations 83.39, 83.41, 83.42, 83.43, 83.44 and 83.45

85. The National Human Rights Commission was established under a law passed in 2009, pursuant to article 142 of the Constitution. See paragraph 15 above.

86. The Commission launched its first strategic plan for the period 2014-2018. It has its own methodology to achieve its aims which focus on seven areas: studying and evaluating the capacity of the Commission through self-evaluation; conducting interviews; holding dialogue; exploring the capacities of its own members; developing plans and programmes

for its specialized committees; analysing legislation and reviewing the organizational and functional structure of the Commission itself.

87. The Commission has been granted observer status on the Permanent Arab Committee for Human Rights. It is a member of the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions and of the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions and has filed a request to become an associate member of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

K. Efforts to halt climate change

Recommendation 83.69

88. Sudan ratified the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol in 2014.

89. Environmental protection regulations were amended in the year 2011 with the addition of provisions under which polluting industries are required to ensure that the environment in which they operate is fully conserved. According to the Environmental Protection Act and its associated regulations, anyone responsible for damaging the environment is required to repair the damage caused and to pay compensation. The Ministry of Petroleum and Gas is also making great efforts to protect the environment by planting forests around oilfields, exploiting associated petroleum gas and setting up hazardous waste treatment units.

90. A national committee has been established to make proposals on the treatment of hazardous materials and waste, and their impact on the climate.

L. The conflict in Darfur

Recommendations 83.53, 83.54, 83.55, 83.56, 83.57, 83.58, 83.59, 83.60 and 83.61

91. Efforts to build lasting peace in Darfur are continuing on the part of the national Government, the Darfur Regional Authority and partners in the United Nations and the African Union. There are also ongoing efforts to implement the Agreement between the Government of the Sudan and the Liberation and Justice Movement for the Adoption of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. During the period covered by the present report many armed combatants have joined the peace process, while the Office of the Public Prosecutor at the Special Criminal Court on the Events in Darfur has been given extra legal staff and provided with technical and logistical assistance.

92. Following an international forum on development held in Darfur in August 2012, a reconstruction and development fund for Darfur was established which finances return and resettlement projects and funds development. The fund also oversees the implementation of development projects and ensures that the needs of women, children and orphans are met. A voluntary repatriation and resettlement commission has also been set up and, in March 2013, it organized a conference to study the situation of displaced persons and refugees. Working with partners, the commission has managed to create 291 voluntary return villages which accommodate 650,000 returning families. The Sudanese Humanitarian Aid Commission, which works with other interested parties to provide support for persons affected by conflict, has signed a joint action plan with funding of US$ 1.03 billion for 349 projects in 11 different sectors. The Commission has also concluded cooperation agreements with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Organization for Migration to carry out humanitarian activities in Darfur and other areas affected by conflict, with a budget of US$ 13,323,900.

M. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

Recommendations 83.72, 83.73, 83.74 and 83.75

93. In accordance with the provisions of the status-of-forces agreement, the Government of the Sudan cooperates with the mission of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) in such areas as the issue of visas and travel permits, the import of equipment and the protection of the mission and its headquarters. Out of concern for the welfare of the members of the mission the Government has, on a very limited number of occasions and for genuine security reasons, advised them not to travel to certain specific regions of Darfur. However, UNAMID is not obliged to abide by the Government's advice and has lodged complaints about restrictions on its movement.

94. The judiciary and law enforcement agencies, particularly the Public Prosecutor at the Special Criminal Court on the Events in Darfur, cooperate in investigating crimes and in ensuring that perpetrators are brought to justice. However, the UNAMID mission rarely cooperates with these bodies when UNAMID personnel are asked to appear as witnesses or complainants to make statements before the Prosecutor or the courts.

95. Three Independent Experts on the situation of human rights in the Sudan have succeeded one another during the period covered by the report. Each of them met with full cooperation on the part of the Government of the Sudan and stated as much in their reports.

N. Violence against women

Recommendations 83.60, 83.61, 83.62 and 83.103

96. As part of its efforts to combat violence against women and children, the authorities have taken a number of measures in terms of legislation and strategic policies. They include the following.

97. The Criminal Code as amended in 2015 stipulates penalties for offences that fall within the concept of violence against women such as sexual harassment. It also differentiates between adultery and rape.

98. The Anti-Human Trafficking Act 2014 stipulates harsher penalties for trafficking when the victims are women or children.

99. A draft national policy to combat violence against women and children has been drawn up for the period 2016-2031.

100. The five-year national plan to combat violence against women 2012-2016 has been adopted. The unit for combating violence against women and children follows up on the implementation of the plan by acting as a coordination mechanism between ministries, the provinces, civil society organizations and United Nations organizations.

101. The unit for combating violence against women and children has created 14 subunits at the provincial level, including 4 four subunits in four of the provinces of Darfur. A network of civil society organizations engaged in combating violence against women has also been set up in order to improve coordination between the State sector and civil society, and it focuses particular attention on the issue of violence against women in Darfur. A number of action plans for the provinces of Darfur have emerged from the national plan to combat violence against women, and these have been discussed with the European Union in Brussels.

102. The unit has worked with the Ministry of the Interior to increase the number of female police officers involved in protecting civilians in camps, especially women. A

course has been developed to train female police officers in investigation techniques and in the principles of international humanitarian law and human rights.

103. Training and capacity-building courses focusing on international, regional and national law have been run for persons working in the judiciary and law enforcement agencies. Female police officers have received training in how to conduct criminal investigations in cases involving violence against women, and a guide on medical treatment in cases of rape has been developed.

104. The report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the prevention of violence against women and girls (E/CN/6/2013/4) mentioned the Sudan as one of 10 States to have reported on the establishment of coordination mechanisms, including task forces, dedicated units, working and interministerial groups and observatories.

O. Female genital mutilation and early marriage

Recommendations 83.105, 83.106, 83.107, 83.108 and 83.109

105. Work began on a draft law to prevent female genital mutilation in 2007. The draft was reviewed by a national committee for the review of laws related to women's rights in 2012-2013, and a series of consultative meetings between the Ministry of Justice and parliamentarians took place.

106. In cooperation with UNICEF the Government has launched the "Salima" campaign which is a social media initiative designed to prevent female genital mutilation. It focuses on bringing about change in society rather than in the individual, making change socially acceptable and disseminating knowledge and awareness about the harmful effects of female genital mutilation.

107. The National Council for Child Welfare, in cooperation with the National Council for Strategic Planning, drafted the national strategy 2008-2018 to prevent female genital mutilation in the Sudan. The aim of the strategy is to build capacity in institutions and in civil society, and to develop skills in society as a whole in order to help people to abandon this practice. Goals of the strategy include enacting legislation to prohibit and criminalize female genital mutilation, raising awareness in society, constructing local, regional and international partnerships, and mobilizing religious figures to play their part. The implementation of the strategy is proceeding as planned.

108. In 2015, the State introduced a national strategy to end child marriage. Sixteen days of activities were organized in November 2015 to stop violence against women and child marriage and to encourage the education of girls. In the same year agreement was reached with the European Union on three projects within the framework of the European Instrument for Democracy & Human Rights. The projects seek to eradicate harmful traditional practices such as child marriage and circumcision, to establish the rights of women in civil status legislation, and to provide psychological, social and legal support for female victims of human rights violations.

P. The reform of the Criminal Code

Recommendation 83.110

109. The Ministry of Justice issued Decree No. 74 of 2015, pursuant to Council of Ministers Decree No. 140 of 2015 (national reform programme), establishing a committee to review a number of pieces of legislation, first among them the 1991 Criminal Code, in the light of the Constitution, of treaties ratified by the Sudan and of the experience of

similar countries. The committee, which is made up of former judges, human rights specialists and academics, can call on the services of whomsoever it wishes including activists.

110. It should be recalled that the Criminal Code underwent a partial amendment in 2015 on sexual harassment, rape and abuse of authority (see para. 11 above).

Q. The administration of justice

Recommendations 83.116, 83.117, 83.118, 83.120 and 83.121

111. The State takes great pains to train persons who work in the judiciary and law enforcement agencies, to which end the Judicial and Legal Sciences Institute was established under Presidential Decree No. 489 of 2014. The prerogatives and professional competencies of the Institute were subsequently expanded under Decree No. 35 of 2015. During those two years the Institute organized many training courses in a number of different fields including investigation, criminal justice, juvenile justice, governance and anti-money laundering techniques. The courses were attended by 369 judges, 137 public prosecutors and counsellors of the Ministry of Justice, 78 lawyers, 91 police officers, 55 researchers and 32 persons from other sectors including civil society organizations. The Institute, in cooperation with the UNAMID mission, has also organized training workshops for 98 judges of the local courts in Darfur as part of an attempt to mediate a solution to the conflict.

112. A coordinating council for human rights has been set up, chaired by the police, to disseminate a human rights culture and build capacity among police officers. Its purpose is to improve their knowledge of international human rights standards in order for them to then exercise and apply those standards in the course of their work.

113. The Ministry of Defence is training the armed forces in international humanitarian law. During the period 2011-2015, more than 20 training courses were held in which 913 officers and enlisted men learned about such subjects as the protection of children during armed conflicts and the laws of armed conflict.

114. In order to ensure the effectiveness of guarantees of a fair trial, as consecrated in international and regional human rights treaties, and to disseminate a human rights culture among the judiciary and law enforcement agencies, the Advisory Council for Human Rights and UNDP organized a number of workshops during the period 2013-2014. Participants included judges, public prosecutors, lawyers and police and security officers with 50 people taking part from each of eight of the provinces of the Sudan.

R. The role of the Special Prosecutor for Darfur

Recommendations 83.118, 83.123, 83.124, 83.125, 83.126, 83.127, 83.128, 83.129 and 83.130

115. The Office of the Public Prosecutor at the Special Criminal Court on the Events in Darfur was expanded in the period 2014-2015 with the establishment of sub-offices in the five provinces of Darfur. The complement of public prosecutors has also been increased and they now number 100, 12 of whom work in the central office.

116. A number of criminal cases have been referred to the Special Criminal Court and judgements have been issued while other cases are still under investigation.[18] The Ministry of Justice has formed three investigative committees on the armed clashes between tribes in Darfur. As a result of the work of those committees a number of criminal cases have been launched and that has helped to calm the situation in those areas.

117. Statistics for 2015 from the Special Criminal Court on the Events in Darfur show that a total of 76 criminal cases are under investigation: 63 in Northern Darfur, 7 in Southern Darfur, 4 in Eastern Darfur and 2 in Western Darfur. The charges involved include murder, crimes against humanity, armed robbery, criminal conspiracy, etc. The cases are proceeding, some having been sent for trial and some still being investigated.

S. Freedom of expression

Recommendation 83.132

118. There have recently been significant improvements in freedom of expression. In order to create a climate conducive to comprehensive national dialogue, the President of the Republic has issued a number of decrees to promote such freedom and encourage the publication of newspapers. Newspapers are no longer censored and there are currently more than 55 dailies in the Sudan of which 26 are political dailies. On 6 December 2015, the Chief Justice issued judicial circular No. 7 of 2015 underlining the urgent need to examine the issue of public freedoms and the measures taken by the authorities concerning press freedom and the banning or restriction of the activities of political parties and civil society organizations. The circular makes it clear that these issues must be given absolute priority over all other matters.

119. The Constitutional Court has issued a number of rulings in support of press freedom including its March 2014 decision to strike down as unconstitutional the decree ordering the closure of the political daily *Al-Tayyar*. Also, in September 2013, it issued a ruling admitting a constitutional case brought by a journalist on the *Al-Intibaha* newspaper. The Court struck down a decree which had banned a number of articles the journalist had written and ordered their publication.

T. The right to social security and to an adequate standard of living

Recommendation 83.132

120. Under the five-year plan 2012-2016, the State aligns itself with the poor and the vulnerable, and the sums allocated for their support were entirely used for that purpose in the years 2014 and 2015. The budget for 2016 focuses on pensions and on basic services to citizens. During the years prior to 2015, health insurance coverage fully funded by the State was extended to 790,000 families while, at the same time, 420,000 poor families were covered by the Zakat Office. A further 200,000 families are added to health insurance by the State each year, meaning that a total of 1.19 million families are covered in the 2016 budget.[19]

121. The State is taking steps to reduce poverty and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. It established the Supreme Council to Combat Poverty and has devised a quarter-century strategic development plan which aims to increase spending on the poor.

[18] See Annex 21.
[19] See Annex.

For example, 12 per cent of financial ceilings have been allocated to finance microprojects as a way of achieving an equitable distribution of income. Microfinance grew enormously in the period 2011-2014 in terms of the amount of funding granted, the number of beneficiaries and the spread of microfinance institutions throughout the provinces. There were 30 such institutions in 2014, as compared with just 13 in 2013.[20] Furthermore, a series of social funds have been established, such as the social integration fund, the student support fund and the graduates employment programme, as well as subsidies to fund irrigation and rain-fed agricultural projects. The Zakat Office also provides support for poor people (see annex No.).

122. The State has developed a five-year strategic health plan 2012-2016 defining priorities, foremost among them comprehensive health-care coverage.

123. A health partnership agreement between the Government of the Sudan, international development partners and representatives of civil society organizations was signed in July 2014. Also in 2014, approval was given for a concept paper of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, while the health-care system was bolstered with a budget of US$ 132,240,879.

124. For information about efforts to combat endemic diseases, see paragraphs 19-21 of the present report.

125. In order to improve health-care access, particularly in remote areas, the State has adopted a self-funding project to expand primary health facilities. Under the project, a number of health units have been established and furnished with medical equipment and staff (see paragraph 21 of the present report).

126. The State has adopted a national plan to improve access to potable water and sanitation in order to achieve one of the Millennium Development Goals. The plan aims to increase individual consumption rates by the end of 2019 to 25 litres per day in rural areas and 90 litres per day in urban areas (see paragraph 24 of the present report and annex 7).

127. Survey indicators show that mortality rates of children under 5 declined in the period 2010-2014 from 83 to 68 per 1,000 live births (2014 multiple indicator cluster survey) while infant mortality rates dropped from 60 to 48 per 1,000 live births over the same period. These are the results of the State's efforts to improve health care for mothers and children, and of the vaccination programme in which coverage of the three-dose pentavalent vaccine has increased to 95 per cent.

U. The right to education and cultural life

Recommendations 83.148, 83.149, 83.150, 83.151, 83.152, 83.153, 83.154, 83.155 and 83.156

128. Measures have been taken to improve opportunities for accessing education, especially in isolated rural areas. The Ministry of Education is working to encourage innovative educational solutions for persons in inaccessible areas, persons affected by poverty and displaced persons. It has put strategic plans in place which seek to ensure equality of opportunity for children and young persons who are not in school. To this end it adopted a number of projects in the years 2014 and 2015, including the following:

[20] Annex: table of microfinance indicators.

2014 projects

(a) A project for children and young persons who are not in school was launched in 2005 and aims to educate young people between the ages of 7 and 24;

(b) The Educate a Child project began in 2013 and will run until 2016; it is aimed at children between the ages of 6 and 13;

(c) An electronic learning project aimed at isolated communities began in 2010.

2015 projects

(a) A comprehensive national anti-illiteracy campaign began in 2015 and will run until 2017; its aim is to make 2 million people literate by the beginning of 2017;

(b) The "Educated World for Sustainable Development" project began in 2015 and will run until 2018; it aims to build capacity among persons working in the field of literacy and adult education, and to establish integrated community centres in three provinces.

129. Enrolment rates in primary school improved tangibly for both sexes in the period 2011-2015, reaching 70.9 per cent. The country has also made great advances in secondary education and the number of State-run secondary schools currently stands at 3,373 thus helping to reduce wastage following basic education. Secondary school enrolment rates are currently 37.3 per cent while the number of primary schools stands at 17,737.

130. In the light of the recommendations which emerged from the 2012 National Education Congress, the National Centre for Curricula and Educational Research is working to introduce human rights principles into programmes of study and to introduce civic education into the secondary school syllabus. Those principles are: equality and non-discrimination, social justice, human dignity and the right to life, honouring women, protecting the good name and reputation of others, understanding, tolerance and the right to participate in public life. Moreover, radio broadcasts have been devised for parents and pupils to increase their awareness of their rights, protect them from exploitation and disseminate peace and tolerance.

131. The National Literacy and Adult Education Council is implementing an alternative learning programme (ALP) for children and young people who are not in school, who have never been to school, who have dropped out of school or who cannot be enrolled into the State education system without making up for the time they have lost.

132. A literacy and adult education action plan was put in place for the period 2010-2015, its principal aims being to reduce rates of basic illiteracy as well as cultural, technical and health illiteracy, and to make 2 million currently illiterate persons literate thereby enabling them to continue their education. The national anti-illiteracy campaign began in 2015 under the patronage of the President of the Republic and aims to make 9,697,795 people literate by 2020.

133. A study was carried out in 2014 aimed at reducing the number of children not enrolled in school, particularly in rural areas and especially children affected by war and displacement, poor families and girls. The study made a number of recommendations which the Government has undertaken to implement such as: strengthening the capacity of educational institutions, developing information systems, building new schools, increasing the wages of teachers and involving local communities in school activities. Thanks to such efforts school dropout rates have fallen to 1.9 per cent.

134. The State has made considerable efforts in cost reduction and in achieving universal free education by providing textbooks, classroom furniture and trained teachers. Nonetheless, internal and external challenges remain real obstacles to progress. These

include wars, internal conflicts, the imposition of the embargo and coercive measures, and the debts which afflict the people of the Sudan and affect human rights in the country, including the right to education.

V. Refugees and internally displaced persons

Recommendations 83.157, 83.158, 83.159 and 83.160

135. The Sudan has adopted a resettlement strategy for displaced persons either in newly-built villages or in building schemes within existing camps. The aim is to provide better living conditions and to improve opportunities for those people to exercise their human right to adequate housing. In this regard, it is important to take account of the financial constraints the Sudan faces as one of the least developed countries, and the impact of the unilateral coercive measures and sanctions which have been imposed on the nation. In order to address all the challenges associated with displacement, the Humanitarian Aid Commission has also developed a national policy for internally displaced persons. A key priority for the Government is to encourage voluntary repatriation, to which end it has built voluntary return villages. As a first step, 85 such villages have been constructed in the five provinces of Darfur. Another important priority is to meet fundamental needs and provide basic services such as security, health care, clean water and education, all of which are seen as vital if internally displaced persons are to be encouraged to settle, resume their activities in agriculture and animal husbandry, and contribute positively to development in their respective regions. Government has been pursuing a successful policy at the federal and local level involving seasonal return to areas of origin. The aim of the policy is to encourage agricultural activities during the rainy season.

136. Despite its serious economic and social difficulties, the Sudan hosts some of the largest numbers of refugees in the world. Refugees and asylum seekers at the end of 2015 were estimated to stand at 635,631. Thanks to help from international organizations, 22 per cent of them have been registered in camps or in urban areas. However, the remaining 78 per cent of refugees and asylum seekers are in other urban areas and cities where they are reliant on the public services which the State provides for its own citizens. They have begun to be registered in a programme run by the civil registry authorities which is being implemented in a number of the country's provinces. In full compliance with the bilateral agreements signed between the Sudan and South Sudan, the Sudanese Government has declared that persons from South Sudan are welcome on national territory. An agreement has been signed between the Government of the Sudan and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to register and count the numbers of persons arriving from South Sudan. This began with the registration of nearly 190,000 persons in the province of Khartoum while committees are at work in White Nile province to register persons arriving there.

V. Challenges and difficulties

A. Unilateral coercive measures

137. The efforts being made by the Sudan in the field of human rights are being hindered by a number of challenges which the country is striving to overcome, chief among them the unilateral coercive measures which have been in force since 1997. Those measures are at odds with the letter and the spirit of human rights treaties and they have negatively affected Sudanese citizens in the exercise of their rights and the enjoyment of an adequate standard of living. Despite the attempts made over many years by the Government of the Sudan to

overcome the negative effects of the sanctions, and to seek alternatives by approaching industrialized countries to cover the essential needs of citizens, the sanctions have remained in effect and have, by any measure, had a destructive effect on the exercise of basic human rights in such areas as health care, water, education, food, transport, development and other fundamental rights.[21] The Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights visited the Sudan in November 2015 to see the effects of those measures. A detailed report was prepared for the Special Rapporteur who will present his own findings at the thirty-third regular session of the Human Rights Council.

B. Foreign debt

138. Foreign debt has contributed to a drop in funding for vitally important development projects. That in turn has increased the cost of living and the poverty rate while at the same time limiting opportunities to operate on global currency markets and reducing the inflow of foreign currency with respect to demand. All of this has caused the national currency to lose value. The crisis has been exacerbated by the failure on the part of the international community to live up to promises made during the Naivasha Process in 2005 to relieve the Sudan of its debt if a comprehensive peace agreement was reached. Unlike almost all other States and despite the fact that it fulfils the necessary conditions, the Sudan has been unable to benefit from debt relief initiatives or from the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC).

C. The armed conflicts in some areas of the Sudan

139. The conflicts began as tribal disputes over grazing lands and natural resources after drought struck a number of areas. That was compounded by the war in the south, the influx of arms from neighbouring countries and the fact that a number of foreign powers were supporting the armed fighters.

140. As a result of the conflicts, thousands of people fled their areas and, despite all its efforts, the State has been unable to help them. The Government has been endeavouring to stop the armed conflict in a number of ways such as negotiations between the two regions under the auspices of the African Union, the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur which led to a number of peace agreements and the comprehensive national dialogue in which more than 20 armed movements have participated. Peace is the main topic of the dialogue which is expected to lead to a complete cessation of armed hostilities in the country.

D. Key priorities and initiatives to be carried out in the near future

141. The Republic of the Sudan is striving to:

(a) Develop a comprehensive human rights strategy;

(b) Approve a permanent Constitution.

[21] See annex 21.

E. Expectations regarding capacity-building and technical assistance

142. The Government of the Sudan expresses it thanks and appreciation to all those partners who have given technical assistance of any kind which has helped the country to meet its human rights obligations.

143. The Republic of the Sudan hopes to receive further technical aid and support in order to help coordinate efforts to protect and promote human rights in the country.

F. Voluntary pledges

144. The Republic of the Sudan will continue tirelessly to cooperate and communicate with all partners and stakeholders at the national, regional and international level in order to fulfil its human rights obligations.

VI. Concluding observations

145. Sudan is determined to continue its progress, to add to its record in the field of promoting and protecting human rights, and to draw positively from global best practices in that regard. The report makes it clear that there is an effective political will to give human rights issues their due importance and this is reflected in specific programmes and directives. The Government attaches great weight to the universal periodic review process and is eager to address all recommendations which may help to improve conditions for people in the Sudan. In the same way, it is keen to benefit from the discussion of its first and second reports before the Human Rights Council in order to identify best practices in the area of human rights and to build national capacity in that regard. Sudan looks forward to cooperating with all its partners at home and abroad with complete openness and transparency, and to promoting and protecting human rights in accordance with the law.

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Sudan

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in reports of the treaty bodies and special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, in reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and in other relevant official United Nations documents. It is presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints. For the full texts, please refer to the documents referenced. The report does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights other than those contained in public reports and statements issued by the Office. It follows the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council in its decision 17/119. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the periodicity of the review, and developments during that period.

GE.16-03583(E)

Please recycle

I. Background and framework

A. Scope of international obligations[1]

1. International human rights treaties[2]

	Status during previous cycle	*Action after review*	*Not ratified/not accepted*
Ratification, accession or succession	ICERD (1977)		ICCPR-OP 2
	ICESCR (1986)		CEDAW
	ICCPR (1986)		CAT (1986, signature)
	CAT (1986, signature)		OP-CAT
	CRC (1990)		ICRMW
	OP-CRC-AC (2005)		ICPPED
	OP-CRC-SC (2004)		
	CRPD (2009)		
Reservations and/or declarations	OP-CRC-AC (declaration under art. 3 (2): 18 years, 2005)		
Complaints procedures, inquiries and urgent action[3]	OP-CRPD, art. 6 (2009)		ICERD, art. 14
			OP-ICESCR
			ICCPR, art. 41
			ICCPR-OP
			OP-CEDAW
			OP-CRC-IC

2. Other main relevant international instruments

	Status during previous cycle	*Action after review*	*Not ratified*
Ratification, accession or succession	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide	Palermo Protocol[4]	Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court
	1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol		1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness
	Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols I and II[5]		Additional Protocol III to the 1949 Geneva Conventions[6]

Status during previous cycle	*Action after review*	*Not ratified*
ILO fundamental conventions except Nos. 87[7]		ILO Convention Nos. 87, 169 and 189[8] Convention against Discrimination in Education

1. The Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan urged the Sudan to ratify CEDAW.[9] The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights encouraged the Sudan to ratify OP-ICESCR and CEDAW.[10] The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination encouraged the Sudan to consider ratifying CEDAW, CAT, ICRMW and ILO Convention No. 169.[11]

2. The Human Rights Committee encouraged Sudan to accede to OP-CRC-IC and ICCPR-OP-2 aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.[12]

3. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) observed that Sudan was not party to the Convention against Discrimination in Education and recommended its ratification.[13]

B. Constitutional and legislative framework

4. The Human Rights Committee was concerned by reports that the constitutional review process was not fully inclusive or allowing full freedom of debate.[14] It was also concerned about lack of clarity on the primacy of the Covenant over domestic law.[15] It recommended transparency throughout the constitutional review process.[16]

5. The Human Rights Committee was concerned that the rights protected by ICCPR have not yet been recognized in the Interim National Constitution or national legal frameworks. It recommended that the Sudan ensure that personal status, family and penal laws are compatible with its obligations under the Covenant.[17] In 2015, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, was concerned by the discriminatory interpretation and implementation of provisions of the Criminal Law Act, the Public Order Act and the Personal Status Act. The Special Rapporteur noted that over 26 laws, including the Personal Status Act, contained provisions that were discriminatory towards women. Proposed changes at the federal level included: an amendment to the minimum age of marriage; the harmonization of domestic substantive and procedural laws with international human rights standards; and the ratification of CEDAW and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.[18] The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was also concerned with the discriminatory provisions affecting women, religious minorities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, including those contained in the Criminal Law Act, the Personal Status Act, the Public Service Regulations, the Social Insurance Act and the Sudanese Nationality Act. It urged the Sudan to amend legal provisions that are discriminatory or have a discriminatory effect.[19] The Human Rights Committee recommended that the Sudan criminalize domestic violence and marital rape.[20] The Independent Expert recommended that the Sudan review article 152 of the Criminal Code on "indecent dress", to ensure that it does not perpetuate violence against women.[21] In 2015, a group of United Nations human rights experts urged the Sudan to repeal discriminatory laws and comply with international standards.[22]

6. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended expediting the adoption of the permanent constitution and ensuring that article 27 (3) of the

Interim Constitution is fully reflected in its new constitution.[23] It also recommended adopting and enforcing legislation prohibiting the dissemination of ideas based on racial or ethnic superiority and expressions of racial hatred and incitement to racial discrimination and violence against any group of persons of another ethnic group.[24]

7. The Human Rights Committee recommended that the Sudan adopt criminal legislation that defines and criminalizes torture and provides for penalties commensurate with the gravity of the act.[25]

8. The Human Rights Committee regretted that Sudanese legislation still granted police, armed forces and national security forces immunity from criminal prosecution.[26] The Independent Expert and the Human Rights Committee noted that the increased mandate and powers of the National Security Service were having a negative impact on the promotion and protection of human rights. Under the National Security Act of 2010, National Security Service agents were only subject to prosecution if the Director General of the National Security Service decided to lift the "immunity" or "prerogative".[27] The Human Rights Committee and the Independent Expert urged implementing their recommendations to amend the National Security Act to bring it into line with the country's constitutional and international human rights obligations or revoke it.[28]

9. The Human Rights Committee was concerned that Sudanese legislation still provided for several forms of corporal punishment. It recommended that the Sudan abolish such punishment in the penal system.[29]

10. UNESCO reported that defamation under chapter 26 of the 2003 Penal Code remains a criminal offence.[30] It recommended that the Sudan decriminalize defamation in accordance with international standards.[31]

11. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that the Sudan withdraw the 2011 amendment to the Nationality Act and ensure that citizenship acquisition and deprivation apply without discrimination.[32]

C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures

12. The Independent Expert commended the establishment of the National Commission for Human Rights, the Advisory Council for Human Rights and other governmental human rights bodies, such as the Human Rights Committee of the National Assembly and other commissions and ministerial units. He recommended that the Sudan continue to facilitate the establishment of branch offices beyond Khartoum and Darfur.[33] The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was concerned that the National Commission for Human Rights was not provided with capacity-building support and the resources necessary for the effective and independent exercise of its mandate.[34] It recommended that the Sudan guarantee the full independence and financial autonomy of the Commission in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), and to seek accreditation from the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.[35]

13. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and UNESCO noted with appreciation the information of the existence of the National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (2013-2023). Both encouraged the Sudan to provide it with adequate resources and effectively implement it.[36] UNESCO called on the Sudan to establish a high-level body to oversee the implementation of the National Action Plan. The Advisory Council for Human Rights and the National Commission for Human Rights should monitor implementation progress.[37]

14. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination urged the Sudan to establish a comprehensive, effective and independent complaints mechanism for discrimination.[38]

15. The Independent Expert was pleased with the international partners' support to the Ministry of Justice to help implement recommendations from the universal periodic review, particularly those related to women and children's rights, and the technical assistance extended to the Advisory Council for Human Rights for the preparation of the national second-cycle review report.[39]

II. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

A. Cooperation with treaty bodies

1. Reporting status

Treaty body	*Concluding observations included in previous review*	*Latest report submitted since previous review*	*Latest concluding observations*	*Reporting status*
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	March 2001	2013	May 2015	Combined seventeenth to nineteenth reports due in 2019
Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	August 2000	2012	October 2015	Third report due in 2019
Human Rights Committee	July 2007	2012	July 2014	Fifth report due in 2017
Committee on the Rights of the Child	October 2010 (on CRC and OP-CRC-AC) and June 2007 (on OP-CRC-SC)	-	-	Combined fifth to sixth reports overdue since 2015
Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	-	2014	-	Initial report overdue pending consideration

2. Responses to specific follow-up requests by treaty bodies

Concluding observations

Treaty body	*Due in*	*Subject matter*	*Submitted in*
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	2016	Internal displacement of persons; citizenship and the risk of statelessness; security of refugees and asylum seekers[40]	-

Concluding observations

Treaty body	*Due in*	*Subject matter*	*Submitted in*
Human Rights Committee	2015	Non-discrimination and equal rights of men and women; death penalty; prohibition of torture and ill-treatment; arrests and detentions under the National Security Act[41]	-

16. UNESCO observed that the Sudan did not report to it on the implementation of its 1960 Recommendation against Discrimination in Education and recommended that the Sudan submit those reports.[42]

B. Cooperation with special procedures[43]

	Status during previous cycle	*Current status*
Standing invitation	No	No
Visits undertaken	Internally displaced persons	Independent Expert on human rights in the Sudan (March and May-June 2011, January and June 2012, February and June 2013, February and June 2014. May 2015)
	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan (March and August 2006, July-August 2007, February-March and June-July 2008, May-June 2009);	Internally displaced persons[44]
	Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan (January- February 2010).	Violence against women
		Negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights
Visits agreed to in principle	Freedom of opinion and expression	-
	Internally displaced persons	
Visits requested	Food	Racism
	Racism	Enforced or involuntary disappearances
	Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances	
	Contemporary forms of slavery	
	Safe drinking water and sanitation	
Responses to letters of allegation and urgent appeals	During the period under review, 31 communications were sent. The Government replied to 10 communications.	
Follow-up reports and missions		

17. The Human Rights Council had renewed the mandate of the Independent Expert and urged the Government to continue its cooperation with him, including by granting him access to the entire country, mainly the States of Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile.[45]

18. Special procedure mandate holders and the Independent Expert sent four joint urgent appeals and two allegation letters in relation to complaints with no official response from the Government. The Independent Expert urged the Government to provide prompt responses to future communications as required by the special procedures system.[46]

C. Cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

19. The Human Rights Council noted with appreciation the submission by the Sudan of its mid-term report on the implementation of the accepted recommendations of the universal periodic review and its cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme in the implementation of those recommendations.[47] The Human Rights Council called upon the Government of the Sudan to continue to cooperate with the Office of the High Commissioner in the implementation the resolution.[48]

III. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

A. Equality and non-discrimination

20. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination noted the existence of constitutional provisions on equality and non-discrimination and measures taken in that area. It recommended that the Sudan introduce a comprehensive definition of racial discrimination.[49]

21. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was concerned at the inferior status of women in the family and in the society in the Sudan, which was reflected in several legal provisions limiting their rights.[50] The Human Rights Committee recommended that the Sudan guarantee de jure and de facto equality between men and women.[51] The Special Rapporteur on women indicated that many women and girls suffered inequality, underdevelopment and poverty. That was exacerbated by violence in public and private spheres at the hands of State or non-State actors.[52]

22. The Special Rapporteur on women noted information regarding the racialized/ethnicized targeting of Darfuri women students, such as the practice of cutting their hair and questioning their "Arab" identity.[53]

23. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination noted with concern the strong ethnic dimensions of the conflict, notably in Darfur, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, and urged the Sudan to integrate the principles of equality and non-discrimination in its conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts.[54]

24. The Human Rights Committee was concerned that discrimination against non-Muslims was embedded in legislation or exercised in practice. It recommended abolishing the crime of apostasy and eliminating discriminatory laws and practices that violate freedom of religion.[55]

25. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination noted with concern that the 2011 amendment to the Nationality Act provided for the revocation of Sudanese nationality of those who had acquired "de jure or de facto" the nationality of South Sudan.[56]

26. The Human Rights Committee was concerned that a large proportion of children were still not registered and recommended that they be registered free of charge and receive official birth certificates.[57]

B. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

27. The Human Rights Committee and the Independent Expert were concerned that the death penalty was maintained for crimes below the threshold of the "most serious crimes", contrary to the Covenant, and that lashing was used routinely. Both recommended a moratorium on death penalty and/or abolishing it and ensuring that it is never applied to persons under 18.[58] They recommended that the Sudan ensure that allegations of torture and ill-treatment be promptly, independently and thoroughly investigated, that perpetrators be brought to justice and adequately sanctioned, that victims receive adequate reparation, including rehabilitation, and that confessions obtained in violation of the Covenant not be accepted by courts.[59]

28. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that the Sudan stop carrying out any violent act that is directed at or has a disproportionate effect on, a specific ethnic group and to ensure that its armed forces refrain from attacking civilians and civilian objects.[60] The Security Council and the Independent Expert reported that Darfur and the States of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile continued to experience sporadic armed conflicts and banditry with a negative impact on civilians. Rapid Support Forces attacked civilians suspected of being sympathetic to armed opposition in Darfur in violation of international humanitarian law. The Independent Expert strongly urged all concerned parties to respect international human rights and international humanitarian law. Violations included systematic attacks against civilians by both government forces and armed opposition groups and bombing of civilian-populated areas in the Nuba Mountains. The Independent Expert had received information on a surge in fighting between government forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North. Violations of human rights and international humanitarian law were also perpetrated by armed movements. On 12 March 2015, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North reportedly attacked Kalogi in Southern Kordofan killing 40 civilians, injuring 45 and displacing 25,000 people. On 25 June 2015, another attack by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North in Southern Kordofan is said to have led to the death of a dozen civilians and the wounding of 100 others. The Independent Expert reiterated his willingness to visit those regions to assess the situation.[61] He recommended that the Sudan stop indiscriminate aerial strikes and respect the principle of proportionality in its armed response to attacks by armed movements.[62] The Human Rights Council condemned the violations and abuses of international human rights and humanitarian law reported in the States of Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile by all parties, including sexual and gender-based violence, and the bombings of humanitarian facilities.[63] The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination remained concerned that the allegations of mass rape by Sudanese soldiers of women belonging to the Fur ethnic group in Thabit village, northern Darfur, in October 2014 have not been thoroughly and effectively investigated.[64] The Human Rights Committee recommended that the Sudan facilitate the reporting of rape and ensure that cases of violence against women are promptly and thoroughly investigated, that perpetrators are brought to justice and adequately sanctioned and victims have access to reparations and means of protection, including access to specialized shelters or centres.[65] The Human Rights Committee and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and the Security Council were concerned at reports of humanitarian access to

civilian populations having been denied in some conflict-affected areas, particularly those controlled by rebel groups. They recommended that the Sudan authorize and facilitate humanitarian access to civilian populations in all conflict areas.[66]

29. The Independent Expert observed that two opposition leaders had been arrested and detained in May and June 2014 for making public statements crossing government-set "red lines" and urged the Government to facilitate an enabling environment for a meaningful national dialogue and political process.[67] The Independent Expert observed that fear of detention by the National Intelligence and Security Service continued to be a major cause of intimidation of political opponents and civil activists. He and the Human Rights Council urged the Government and its security agents to desist from arbitrary arrests and detentions and to respect the human rights of all individuals, including human rights defenders and members of civil society organizations.[68] The Human Rights Committee was concerned that under the National Security Act, National Intelligence and Security Service officials could detain suspects for periods of up to four and a half months without judicial supervision. It recommended that the Sudan ensure that detainees are brought before a judge within 48 hours, abolish all secret places of detention and ensure enjoyment of all legal safeguards under article 9 of the Covenant.[69]

30. The Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended stopping all forms of excessive use of force by ensuring that State officials carry out their activities in accordance with the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials and other human rights standards and thoroughly investigate reports of excessive use of force and to prosecute perpetrators.[70] The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was concerned about information that human rights defenders continued to be persecuted by the police.[71]

31. The Independent Expert and the Human Rights Council expressed serious concern at the killing of demonstrators in September 2013 and March 2014, and called on the Sudan to conduct an independent inquiry and ensure justice and accountability.[72] The Independent Expert considered that the government report did not provide evidence of an independent investigation of those violations and urged it to quickly institute an independent judicial public enquiry into the killings and other human rights violations.[73] The Human Rights Committee was concerned by numerous allegations of torture or ill-treatment by State officials and recommended that all allegations be investigated.[74]

32. The Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination expressed concern about reported cases of sexual violence in conflict. They strongly urged the Sudan to ensure that State forces and groups under its control do not perpetrate human rights violations under any circumstances and investigate and punish acts of sexual violence in conflict areas, in particular Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile, including the alleged mass rape in Thabit village.[75]

33. The Special Rapporteur on women stated that protracted conflict, particularly in Darfur, had caused instability, insecurity, violence, internal displacement, rule of law challenges, poverty and underdevelopment.[76] She stated that it was impossible to verify the extent of violence against women due to limited disaggregated data; social stigma; underreporting of cases; traditional, cultural and social norms.[77] She stated that denial of violence against women, except in minimal and certain contexts needed to be addressed as a priority. She urged the Government to set up a commission of inquiry, consisting of national and international members, to look into allegations of mass rapes in different regions.[78] The Independent Expert was particularly concerned about the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence throughout Darfur. Reluctance of law enforcement officials to register or appropriately investigate sexual violence offences impeded victims' access to justice. Difficulties for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in

Darfur in gaining access to information, sites and victims of alleged human rights violations continued to impede reporting cases of sexual and gender-based violence.[79]

34. The Special Rapporteur noted that, despite the 2006 Presidential Decree abolishing numerous categories of public order crimes, the Public Order Police still conducted sweeps mainly targeting women working in the informal sector.[80]

35. The Special Rapporteur on women noted reports of increased trafficking in women and girls, particularly asylum seekers and refugees.[81] The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that the Sudan increase its efforts to prevent and protect refugees and investigate all cases of abduction, bring perpetrators to justice and firmly apply its anti-trafficking legislation.[82] The Human Rights Committee raised similar recommendations.[83]

36. UNESCO noted the strategy to eliminate female genital mutilation. It appeared, however, that the Sudan had not taken further steps to prohibit the practice and educate the women on their rights. It encouraged the Sudan to abolish female genital mutilation through education.[84] The Human Rights Committee recommended eradicating the practice and enforcing the necessary legislative measures.[85]

37. The Human Rights Committee was concerned that violence against women remained a serious problem. It recommended that the Sudan ensure an effective response to all forms of violence against women.[86]

38. The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict acknowledged the Sudan/United Nations dialogue towards the adoption of an action plan to end recruitment of children. It called on the Government to sign the action plan. It recommended ending and criminalizing recruitment of children, investigating any reports of recruitment and use of children by its security forces and ensuring that recruiters are brought to justice and punished. It expressed concern regarding reports of sexual violence committed against children by government forces and militias, and requested the Government to prosecute perpetrators and provide reparations for victims and humanitarian assistance to children.[87]

C. Administration of justice, including impunity and the rule of law

39. The Human Rights Committee was concerned at reports that the 2013 amendment to the Armed Forces Act allowed military authorities to try civilians and recommended adopting legal measures to prohibit military courts from exercising jurisdiction over civilians.[88]

40. The Independent Expert called upon the Government to conduct an independent judicial inquiry into the killings and other human rights violations, address arbitrary violations of the right to life and prevent impunity He recommended that the Sudan combat impunity and ensure access to justice for victims of human rights violations.[89]

41. The Human Rights Committee recommended that the Sudan accelerate investigations and prosecutions regarding serious human rights violations committed in Darfur since February 2003, and increase cooperation with international mechanisms of accountability, including the International Criminal Court.[90] A joint report indicated that human rights violations were carried out with impunity. Perpetrators within government security and armed forces and pro-government paramilitary accused of human rights violations were rarely brought to justice.[91] The Security Council emphasized that some of those acts against civilians, particularly women and children, may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity against women and girls and investigations should be conducted and accountability measures undertaken.[92]

D. Freedom of religion or belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly, and right to participate in public and political life

42. The Independent Expert received information on arrests and restrictions of freedom of religion or belief of Christian communities.[93] The Independent Expert noted that he had received numerous complaints about the conviction of Meriam Ibrahim on allegations of apostasy. She was later released by a Court of Appeal ruling. He urged Sudan to fully respect the right to freedom of religion without discrimination.[94]

43. The Human Rights Council expressed concern at reports of media restrictions, censorship, seizure of newspapers, banning of some journalists and violations of the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of association and of peaceful assembly.[95] The Council also urged the Government to further promote and protect those human rights, including activities of civil society, and ensure compliance by all parties with human rights and international humanitarian law.[96]

44. UNESCO encouraged Sudan to introduce a freedom of information law in line with international standards.[97] The Human Rights Committee was concerned by allegations that State officials had closed or confiscated newspapers without court orders, subjecting journalists to intimidation and harassment. It was also concerned about the obligations placed on journalists by the 2009 Press and Publications Act and about prosecutions for disseminating "false news".[98] UNESCO recommended that the Sudan facilitate the introduction of a self-regulatory mechanism for the media.[99] The Independent Expert urged the Sudan to protect freedom of the press, noting that national security laws were used to clamp down on the press, including through the closure of media houses, the arrest of journalists and the confiscation of newspapers and equipment by the National Security Service.[100] The Independent Expert called on the Government to allow civil society organizations to operate legitimately and to ensure that its security agents stop curtailing the activities of civil society.[101] The Special Rapporteur on women noted reports received, indicating a clamping down on non-governmental organization generally, but more specifically women's rights organizations, including through deregistration and the imposition of barriers to registration.[102]

45. The Independent Expert reported that, in December 2014, human rights activists and political leaders had been arrested by the National Security Service for having signed and supported the "Sudan Call", a political declaration calling for the restoration of democracy. On 9 April 2015, their trial had been suspended and they had been released.[103] In 2015, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders thanked the Government for its replies[104] and expressed his concern at allegations of intimidation against human rights defenders and their families and the detention of defenders in relation to their legitimate peaceful activities.[105]

E. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living

46. The Independent Expert observed that, in Darfur, widespread poverty with two thirds of the population under poverty line, had been exacerbated by armed conflict, adversely affecting the enjoyment of the rights to food, housing, health, water, sanitation and education. Land occupation and land use issues were a recurring issue in Darfur. Issues of access to land often triggered intercommunal conflict in the region. Women in Darfur, by virtue of their social and legal status and as a result of traditional norms and customs, faced increased discrimination, affecting their enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights.[106] The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights noted with concern the high rate of unemployment among youth and women.[107] It was concerned that measures

taken to mitigate the effect of the austerity programme had further corroded the enjoyment of certain Covenant rights, such as the right to food.[108]

47. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was alarmed by the negative impact on the rights of land users, particularly small-scale farmers and agropastoralists, of development projects such as the construction of dams and large-scale leasing of farmland in the country to local or foreign investors, facilitated by the Land Confiscation Law, the Unregistered Land Act, the Land Allocation Act and the National Investment Encouragement Act.[109]

48. The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons noted that endemic poverty affected 47 per cent of the population in the Sudan. The lack of access to basic services and a social safety net, particularly in peripheral regions, was reflected in indicators such as low full immunization of children at (39.3 per cent), and high under-5 and maternal mortality rates.[110]

49. The Independent Expert noted that poverty was an issue of concern, especially for internally displaced persons in conflict areas. There were noticeable inequalities in access to education, sanitation and clean water. A wide income gap persisted between rural and urban settings.[111]

F. Right to health

50. The Independent Expert noted that, owing to non-access to areas under the control of armed movements since 2011, it was estimated that 160,000 children under 5 in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States were at risk of polio and other preventable diseases as a result of lack of immunization. The Independent Expert recommended that all parties allow vaccination access to conflict areas.[112]

G. Right to education

51. UNESCO encouraged the Sudan to continue working towards providing basic and human rights education for all, including in remote areas and with special attention given to refugees and asylum seekers.[113]

H. Minorities and indigenous peoples

52. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination regretted the absence of data on the ethnic composition of the population and encouraged holding a nationwide census.[114] It was also concerned about the absence of data on representation of minority groups in public administration and recommended promoting equitable representation of minority groups in national and local government functions, the public services, the army and the police, particularly at high-level positions.[115]

53. The same Committee was concerned that the unresolved status of Abyei continued to impact the enjoyment of rights by ethnic groups living there. It encouraged the Sudan to resolve the political future of Abyei, so that they can fully enjoy their rights protected under the Convention.[116]

54. The Committee was concerned about reports of plans to resume construction of the Kajbar dam, and recommended consulting ethnic groups whose rights may be affected.[117]

I. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

55. The Human Rights Committee noted with concern reports indicating that the principle of non-refoulement had not always been observed, in particular with regard to Eritrean refugees and asylum seekers. It recommended that the Sudan ensure that the absolute prohibition of refoulement under the Covenant is strictly respected.[118] The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that the Sudan ensure the safety of refugees and asylum seekers by seeking international assistance.[119]

J. Internally displaced persons

56. The Human Rights Committee was concerned about insufficient protection of internally displaced persons in camps and in host communities. It urged the Sudan to ensure adequate and effective protection is provided to internally displaced persons in camp and non-camp situations.[120] The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that the Sudan cater to internally displaced persons and facilitate humanitarian access to those in need of such aid without discrimination.[121] The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended intensifying efforts to create conditions for the voluntary return or local integration of internally displaced persons.[122] The Independent Expert recommended that the Sudan ensure that humanitarian assistance is provided to internally displaced persons, and that economic, social and cultural rights are respected.[123]

57. The Independent Expert reported that the upsurge in conflict generated an estimated 250,000 internally displaced persons between February and April 2014, pushing the total number in Darfur to over 2 million.[124] The Human Rights Committee recommended that the Sudan prevent and avoid displacement of persons, including by training its security forces on how to avoid tactics that lead to displacement.[125]

58. The Special Rapporteur on internally displaced persons noted new and protracted internal displacement caused by armed conflict, communal violence and conflicts over resources as a result of climate change.[126] He recommended that the Sudan develop a comprehensive national framework on internal displacement,[127] with clear procedures that can be communicated to all parties concerned to facilitate unimpeded timely humanitarian access at the capital, regional, state and local levels;[128] initiate a multi-stakeholder mechanism to look into the factors triggering or prolonging displacement in the Sudan and provide recommendations on strategies to address that issue;[129] and develop early-warning, conflict-resolution and mediation mechanisms.[130] He noted that continued fighting in South Kordofan and Blue Nile since June 2011 and throughout 2012 between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North severely limited international humanitarian community access to nearly 800,000 internally displaced persons and severely affected persons in those areas.[131] He recommended, inter alia, that the Sudan ensure timely delivery of assistance and early-recovery programmes.[132] He reported that no significant improvement in the overall humanitarian situation, with nearly 40 per cent of the population of Darfur (3.5 million people) continued to receive humanitarian assistance in 2012, approximately half of whom were registered internally displaced persons living in camps.[133] The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was concerned at new waves of internally displaced persons in Darfur and the Nuba mountains. It urged the Sudan to ensure that ongoing conflicts do not generate further displacement.[134] The Special Rapporteur on internally displaced persons recommended that the Sudan, inter alia, continue engagement with relevant actors to reach comprehensive and inclusive political solutions to the conflict that can lead to durable solutions to displacement and facilitate unimpeded humanitarian access to internally displaced persons.[135]

59. The same Special Rapporteur noted that displaced women and girls were at increased risk of sexual and gender-based violence and exploitation.[135] The Special Rapporteur on women made related observations.[137]

60. The Human Rights Council urged the Government to investigate allegations of human rights violations in the camps for internally displaced persons with a view to ending them, taking into account the Independent Expert's recommendations.[138]

K. Right to development

61. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was concerned that the amendment to article 43 of the Interim Constitution, empowering the President to allocate and confiscate land for investment purposes without restriction, could further contribute to the displacement of Nubians and the destruction of sites significant to them. It recommended that the Sudan consider repealing that amendment.[139]

62. The Special Rapporteur on internally displaced persons noted that conditions partly attributable to climate change had led to failed growing seasons, desertification, deforestation and erratic rainfall exacerbating food insecurity, and reducing grazing lands. That had led to conflict over scarce resources, particularly between pastoralist and agriculturalist communities.[140]

63. The Independent Expert recommended that the international community support the Government of the Sudan in the realization of economic and social rights and the effective implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur.[141]

64. In November 2015, the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights noted that such measures had been applied to the Sudan for two decades without any adaptation to the evolution of the internal context, although the situation that had prevailed in 1997 was completely different from the current one. He recommended, inter alia, that the Sudan consider setting up a temporary mechanism under the United Nations to ensure the channelling of vital supplies, such as medicines, prevent pandemics and ensure prompt supply of spare parts, in cooperation with the source country and the Sudan.[142]

Notes

[1] Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratification of instruments listed in the table may be found on the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, http://treaties.un.org/. Please also refer to the United Nations compilation on Sudan from the previous cycle (A/HRC/WG.6/11/SDN/2).

[2] The following abbreviations have been used in the present document:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD
ICPPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

[3] Individual complaints: ICCPR-OP 1, art. 1; OP-CEDAW, art. 1; OP-CRPD, art. 1; OP-ICESCR, art 1; OP-CRC-IC, art. 5; ICERD, art. 14; CAT, art. 22; ICRMW, art. 77; and ICPPED, art. 31. Inquiry procedure: OP-CEDAW, art. 8; CAT, art. 20; ICPPED, art. 33; OP-CRPD, art. 6; OP-ICESCR, art. 11; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 13. Inter-State complaints: ICCPR, art. 41; ICRMW, art. 76; ICPPED, art. 32; CAT, art. 21; OP-ICESCR, art. 10; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 12. Urgent action: ICPPED, art. 30.

[4] Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

[5] Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II). For the official status of ratifications, see International Committee of the Red Cross, www.icrc.org/ihl.

[6] Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III). For the official status of ratifications, see International Committee of the Red Cross, www.icrc.org/ihl.

[7] International Labour Organization (ILO) Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29); Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105); Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98); Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100); Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111); Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138); Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).

[8] ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87); Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169); and Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).

[9] See A/HRC/27/69, para. 29.

[10] See E/C.12/SDN/CO/2, para. 57

[11] See CERD/C/SDN/CO/12-16, para. 24.

[12] See CCPR/C/SDN/CO/4, paras. 7 and 14.

[13] See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of the Sudan, para. 40.

[14] See CCPR/C/SDN/CO/4, para. 6.

[15] Ibid., para. 7.

[16] Ibid., para. 6.

[17] Ibid., para. 7.

[18] Press release, "Special Rapporteur on violence against women finalizes country mission to Sudan and calls for more open and constructive dialogues on violence against women, its causes and consequences", 24 May 2015. Available from www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16009&LangID=E.

[19] See E/C.12/SDN/CO/2, paras. 19 and 20.

[20] See CCPR/C/SDN/CO/4, para. 12.

[21] See A/HRC/30/60, para. 74 (j).

[22] Press release, "Young woman risks 20 lashes for 'indecent dressing' – UN experts urge Sudan to overturn 'outrageous conviction'", 28 August 2015. Available at www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16355&LangID=E.
[23] See CERD/C/SDN/CO/12-16, para. 15.
[24] Ibid., para. 12.
[25] See CCPR/C/SDN/CO/4, para. 15.
[26] Ibid., para. 17.
[27] See A/HRC/30/60, para. 13. See also CCPR/C/SDN/CO/4, para. 17.
[28] See CCPR/C/SDN/CO/4, para. 18 and A/HRC/27/69, paras. 29, 60 and 81 (f).
[29] See CCPR/C/SDN/CO/4, para. 16.
[30] See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of the Sudan, paras. 31-32.
[31] Ibid., paras. 42-44.
[32] See CERD/C/SDN/CO/12-16, para. 19.
[33] See A/HRC/30/60, paras. 60 and 74 (c), and A/HRC/27/69, para. 81 (r).
[34] See CERD/C/SDN/CO/12-16, para. 17. See also A/HRC/23/44/Add.2, para. 12, A/HRC/30/60, paras. 60 and 74 (c), A/HRC/27/69, para. 81 (r), and E/C.12/SDN/CO/2, para. 9.
[35] See CERD/C/SDN/CO/12-16, para. 17. See also A/HRC/23/44/Add.2, para. 12, A/HRC/30/60, paras. 60 and 74 (c), and A/HRC/27/69, para. 81 (r).
[36] See CERD/C/SDN/CO/12-16, para. 23, and UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of the Sudan, para. 14.
[37] UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of the Sudan, para. 14.
[38] See CERD/C/SDN/CO/12-16, para. 22.
[39] See A/HRC/30/60, para. 65.
[40] See CERD/C/SDN/CO/12-16, para. 30.
[41] See CCPR/C/SDN/CO/4, para. 27.
[42] See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Sudan, para. 40.
[43] For the titles of special procedure mandate holders, see www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Welcomepage.aspx.
[44] See A/HRC/23/44/Add.2 and A/HRC/23/44/Add.3.
[45] See Human Rights Council resolution 24/28.
[46] See A/HRC/27/69, paras. 23, 24 and 81 (p), and A/HRC/30/60, para. 74 (f) (iv).
[47] See Council resolution 24/28.
[48] See Council resolution 27/29.
[49] See CERD/C/SDN/CO/12-16, paras. 12.
[50] See E/C.12/SDN/CO/2, para. 29.
[51] See CCPR/C/SDN/CO/4, para. 10.
[52] Press release, "Special Rapporteur on violence against women finalizes country mission to Sudan and calls for more open and constructive dialogues on violence against women, its causes and consequences", 24 May 2015.
[53] Ibid.
[54] See CERD/C/SDN/CO/12-16, para. 6.
[55] See CCPR/C/SDN/CO/4, para. 20.
[56] See CERD/C/SDN/CO/12-16, para. 19.
[57] See CCPR/C/SDN/CO/4, para. 25.
[58] Ibid., paras. 14 and 15, and A/HRC/30/60, paras. 57 and 74 (g).
[59] See CCPR/C/SDN/CO/4, paras. 14 and 15.
[60] See CERD/C/SDN/CO/12-16, para. 8.
[61] See A/HRC/30/60, paras. 37, 42 and 49-52. See also Security Council resolution 2265 (2016).
[62] See A/HRC/27/69, paras. 61, 64 and 81 (j). See also Security Council resolution 2265 (2016).
[63] See Council resolution 27/29.
[64] See CERD/C/SDN/CO/12-16, para. 11.
[65] See CCPR/C/SDN/CO/4, para. 8.
[66] See CCPR/C/SDN/CO/4, para. 8, and joint report by the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and OHCHR, para. 115, and Security Council resolution 2265 (2016). See also joint UNAMID and OHCHR report, para. 115, as UNAMID recommended that the

Sudan grant unfettered and unimpeded access to all areas to human rights and humanitarian actors to ensure the effective protection of civilians.

67 See A/HRC/27/69, paras. 27 and 28.
68 See Council resolution 27/29 and A/HRC/27/69, para. 48.
69 See CCPR/C/SDN/CO/4, para. 18.
70 Ibid., para. 22, and CERD/C/SDN/CO/12-16, para. 13.
71 See CERD/C/SDN/CO/12-16, para. 13.
72 See Council resolution 27/29 and A/HRC/27/69, paras. 32, 40, 41 and 81 (b).
73 See A/HRC/27/69, paras. 40 and 81 (b).
74 See CCPR/C/SDN/CO/4, para. 15.
75 Ibid., para. 8, and CERD/C/SDN/CO/12-16, para. 11.
76 Press release, "Special Rapporteur on violence against women finalizes country mission to Sudan and calls for more open and constructive dialogues on violence against women, its causes and consequences", 24 May 2015.
77 Ibid.
78 Ibid.
79 See A/HRC/30/60, paras. 43-45.
80 Press release, "Special Rapporteur on violence against women finalizes country mission to Sudan and calls for more open and constructive dialogues on violence against women, its causes and consequences", 24 May 2015.
81 Ibid.
82 See CERD/C/SDN/CO/12-16, para. 20.
83 See CCPR/C/SDN/CO/4, para. 23.
84 See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of the Sudan, paras. 39-40.
85 See CCPR/C/SDN/CO/4, para. 13.
86 Ibid., para. 12.
87 Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict submission for the universal periodic review of the Sudan, p. 1. See CCPR/C/SDN/CO/4, para. 24.
88 See CCPR/C/SDN/CO/4, para. 19.
89 See A/HRC/30/60, paras. 33, 54 and 74 (f) (i).
90 See CCPR/C/SDN/CO/4, para. 8.
91 See joint UNAMID and OHCHR report, para. 39.
92 See Security Council resolution 2265 (2016), paras. 16, 21 and 24. See also press release, "Special Rapporteur on violence against women finalizes country mission to Sudan and calls for more open and constructive dialogues on violence against women, its causes and consequences", 24 May 2015.
93 See A/HRC/30/60, para. 30.
94 See A/HRC/27/69, paras. 29 and 43.
95 See Council resolution 27/29.
96 See Council resolution 24/28.
97 See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of the Sudan, paras. 42-44.
98 See CCPR/C/SDN/CO/4, para. 21.
99 See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of the Sudan, paras. 42-44.
100 See A/HRC/30/60, para. 22.
101 See A/HRC/27/69, para. 55.
102 Press release, "Special Rapporteur on violence against women finalizes country mission to Sudan and calls for more open and constructive dialogues on violence against women, its causes and consequences", 24 May 2015. See also A/HRC/30/27, p. 12 (several special procedure mandate holders sent a communication regarding the alleged deregistration of 14 associations in Sudan for contravening the Law on Cultural Groups of 1996 regulating associations).
103 See A/HRC/30/60, para. 17.
104 See A/HRC/28/63/Add.1, paras. 66-68.
105 Ibid., paras. 69.
106 See A/HRC/30/60, paras. 46-48.
107 See E/C.12/SDN/CO/2, para. 31.
108 Ibid., para. 17.
109 Ibid., para. 11.

[110] See A/HRC/23/44/Add.2, para. 7.
[111] See A/HRC/27/69, para. 72.
[112] Ibid., paras. 70 and 81 (n) and 84 (d).
[113] See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of the Sudan, para. 40.
[114] See CERD/C/SDN/CO/12-16, para. 14.
[115] Ibid., para. 18.
[116] Ibid., para. 9.
[117] Ibid., para. 21.
[118] See CCPR/C/SDN/CO/4, para. 23.
[119] See CERD/C/SDN/CO/12-16, para. 20.
[120] See CCPR/C/SDN/CO/4, para. 9.
[121] See CERD/C/SDN/CO/12-16, para. 10.
[122] See E/C.12/SDN/CO/2, para. 24.
[123] See A/HRC/30/60, para. 74 (l). See also Security Council Resolution 2265 (2016).
[124] See A/HRC/27/69, para. 62.
[125] See CCPR/C/SDN/CO/4, para. 9.
[126] See A/HRC/23/44/Add.2, para. 62.
[127] Ibid., para. 65 (a).
[128] Ibid., para. 65 (b).
[129] Ibid., para. 65 (e).
[130] Ibid., para. 65 (f).
[131] Ibid., para. 60.
[132] Ibid., para. 65 (r).
[133] Ibid., para. 30.
[134] See CERD/C/SDN/CO/12-16, para. 10.
[135] See A/HRC/23/44/Add.2, para. 65 (i) and (j). See also Security Council Resolution 2265 (2016).
[136] See A/HRC/23/44/Add.2, para. 38.
[137] Press release, "Special Rapporteur on violence against women finalizes country mission to Sudan and calls for more open and constructive dialogues on violence against women, its causes and consequences", 24 May 2015.
[138] See Council resolution 27/29.
[139] See CERD/C/SDN/CO/12-16, para. 21.
[140] See A/HRC/23/44/Add.2, para. 10.
[141] See A/HRC/27/69, para. 81 (g).
[142] Press statement, "Preliminary observations and recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on the negative impacts of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights", 30 November 2015. Available at www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16824&LangID=E.

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Sudan*

The present report is a summary of 24 stakeholders' submissions[1] to the universal periodic review. It follows the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council in its decision 17/119. It does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), nor any judgement or determination in relation to specific claims. The information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes and, to the extent possible, the original texts have not been altered. As provided for in Human Rights Council resolution 16/21, where appropriate, a separate section is provided for contributions by the national human rights institution of the State under review that is accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles. The full texts of all submissions received are available on the OHCHR website. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the periodicity of the review and developments during that period.

* The present document was not edited before being sent to United Nations translation services.

I. Information provided by stakeholders

A. Background and framework

1. Scope of international obligations[2]

1. TCC recommended Sudan to bring its national laws in line with international obligations through accession to international treaties and incorporating those obligations into its Constitutional Bill of Rights.[3] Sudan National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) informed that Sudan is still examining the accession to CEDAW, CAT, and the Protocol to the African Charter on human and peoples' rights (ACHPR) and recommended acceding to additional conventions.[4] AI, HRW, MPV, Redress, JS1, JS2, JS6, and JS7 recommended Sudan to consider ratifying CAT, CEDAW and its Optional Protocol without reservations in line with its 2011 UPR accepted recommendations.[5] AI and JS6 recommended ratifying the ICPPED and the Protocol to ACHPR.[6] Alkarama, ANND, Redress and JS7 recommended ratifying CAT and OP-CAT.[7] JS1 recommended ratifying the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.[8]

2. HRW recommended ratifying the Rome Statute of ICC.[9] MPV recommended Sudan to ratify the Second OP-ICCPR, aiming to abolish the death penalty.[10]

3. JC recommended Sudan to uphold CERD, ICCPR, ICESCR and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the crime of Genocide, to which it is a party of.[11]

2. Constitutional and legislative framework

4. JS6 observed that Sudan's 2005 Interim National Constitution (INC) provides that all human rights treaties ratified by Sudan are part of it. But a number of laws infringe on fundamental rights and freedoms. In January 2015 a number of amendments to the INC were passed in breach of the required procedure.[12] NCHR observed that Sudan did not implement accepted recommendations concerning the amendment of some laws and recommended revising national legislation to be in conformity with the Constitution, and enact new legislation to protect the rights guaranteed by the Constitution.[13] JS5 urged Sudan to amend the Access to Information Act of 2015.[14] JS6 recommended Sudan to Repeal the Publications Act or amend it in line with international law and standards.[15] NCHR, AI, HRW, Alkarama and FLD urged amending the National Security Act 2010, the Press and Printing Act 2009, the Voluntary and Humanitarian Work Act 2006, and the Criminal Act 1991, to ensure that they do not restrict the rights to the freedom of expression, association and assembly.[16] Alkarama also recommended repealing the 2007 Armed Forces Act, and the 2008 Police Act.[17] NCHR, Alkarama and ANND observed that an amendment introduced to the Armed Forces Act in 2013, granting military tribunals jurisdiction to try civilians and recommended repealing those laws.[18]

5. JS6, JS7, TCC and NCHR recommended Sudan to review national laws to bring them in line with international human rights instruments to which Sudan is a state party to.[19] JS6 recommended Sudan to establish a mechanism for independent and unrestricted visits to places of detention.[20]

6. AI and JS6 called for the incorporation of a comprehensive definition of torture in national legislation in line with international standards.[21]

7. TCC observed that the 2009 National Security Service Act (NSSA) and the 1991 Code of Criminal Procedure provide for detention without timely judicial recourse are

contrary to the provisions of the CPA. TCC recommended revising the legal framework, amend laws that are inconsistent with democratic elections and reform the National Elections Commission.[22]

8. Redress urged repealing constitutional amendments that repealed Article 151 (2) and (3) of the 2005 INC, which shifted powers towards the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) other than intelligence functions.[23]

9. AI and JS6 observed that in 2015, Sudanese parliament approved a controversial amendment to Article 151 of the INC that regulates the role of the NISS which transformed the NISS into a regular armed force, with powers of arrest and detention with no accountability. They recommended Sudan to repeal this amendment, including through the establishment of a judicial oversight mechanism.[24] Redress noted that Sudan's legal system provides neither adequate custodial safeguards nor adequate monitoring mechanisms.[25] Redress and JS6 recommended reforming the 2010 NSSA by removing law enforcement functions from the NISS.[26] CIVICUS recommended amending or repealing provisions criminalizing legitimate forms of freedom of expression, abolish provisions of the Armed Forces Act empowering military courts to adjudicate freedom of expression offences and abolish provisions of the Press and Printed Materials Act.[27] Redress, CIVICUS and JS6 recommended repealing all provisions that grant immunities to the police, NISS, armed forces, Rapid Support Forces and other security forces from criminal prosecution in the National Security Act and the Police Act.[28] Redress recommended making torture a criminal offence subject to adequate punishments.[29]

10. JS2 noted Sudan did not accept previous recommendations to reform NSSA (2010) and did not amend its laws on marriage, custody, divorce, property rights, and indecency in compliance with international human rights law and as previously accepted recommendation.[30]

11. AI recommended Sudan to repeal all legislation that allows for the application of corporal punishment.[31] CRIN observed that sentencing in courts must heed the Child Act 2010 which prohibits whipping children. The Act does not prohibit other forms of corporal punishment, such as amputation.[32] JS6, ECLJ, JC and MPV recommended harmonizing the Criminal Law Act with the Interim Constitution to ensure religious freedom and repeal Articles 125-126.[33] AI recommended Sudan to abolish the criminalization of apostasy.[34] JS6, JS7 and MPV noted that women, particularly those from ethnic or religious minority groups, are regularly charged with public indecency under Article 152 of the Penal Code. They recommended Sudan to repeal parts of Article 152 and other public order law provisions and repeal all laws that discriminate against women to ensure conformity with international standards.[35] CIVICUS and JS6 also recommended amending the 1991 Penal Code and the 1991 Criminal Procedure Act.[36]

12. CRIN recommended raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility.[37]

13. MPV recommended Sudan to raise the minimum marriage age to 18 years old.[38]

14. JS6 stated that there is no law explicitly criminalising the practice of female genital mutilation and recommended Sudan to criminalise violence against women and marital rape and prosecute those responsible and ensure that women victims of violence have access to protection and reparation measures.[39]

15. SHRI recommended Sudan to bring its "hudud" offences legislation in line with human rights and urged that those penalties are applied to Muslims exclusively.[40]

16. MPV recommended Sudan to repeal laws criminalizing homosexuality and private sexual conduct between consenting adults and ensure that LGBTI individuals are not arrested on grounds of sexual orientation and/or gender identity.[41]

17. Alkarama recommended Sudan to bring the Anti-Terrorism Act, the rules of procedure of the special courts in conformity with the relevant international standards.[42]

3. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures

18. NCHR reported on the adoption of its 2014-2018 strategy. AI, JS6 and Alkarama claimed that the support from the Government or the international community was not up to the human rights challenges which require a widespread presence. They pledged for more resources to enable NCHR fulfil its mandate. They welcomed the establishment of NHRC but noted that the NHRC structure and mandate need to be in compliance with the Paris Principles, especially in terms of independence, pluralism and effectiveness in investigating human rights violations.[43]

19. Redress noted the absence of a clear anti-torture policy with necessary legislative and institutional reforms, independent complaints bodies and a strong judiciary or NCHR. Redress recommended developing a comprehensive anti-torture policy in addition to thorough institutional reforms of the NISS and the police, particularly by confining NISS to an intelligence service.[44]

20. JS2 noted that the government initiated a 'national dialogue' but did not create a favourable atmosphere.[45]

B. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

Cooperation with special procedures

21. SHRI, CIVICUS and JS7 recommended extending a standing invitation to human rights special procedures to assist the government with human rights reforms.[46] CIVICUS recommended inviting the SRs on Human Rights Defenders, Freedom of Expression, Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association and Independence of Lawyers and Judges.[47]

22. Alkarama reported that Sudan has constantly refused the visit of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.[48]

23. HRW called for the extension of the mandate of a Special Rapporteur on Sudan, and for the creation of OHCHR inquiry missions, to investigate human rights violations in Darfur, Southern Kordodan and Blue Nile.[49]

C. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

1. Equality and non-discrimination

24. MPV stated that Criminal Law Act 1991 restricts religious freedom and used as a pretext for discrimination against all those with alternative religious beliefs contrary to the 2005 INC where apostasy in not criminalized.[50] SHRI pointed out issues of discrimination in the Personal Status Law establishing the rules of inheritance according to Islamic law.[51]

25. MPV noted that LGBTI citizens face several forms of discrimination. Homosexuality is punishable under Sections 148 and 152 of the Penal Code. Death penalty is the punishment for sodomy and is still being enforced in Sudan. They recommended Sudan to promote the rights and freedoms of all LGBTI citizens. They recommended Sudan to provide training to prevent discrimination against LGBTI people.[52]

2. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

26. JS6 and MPV reported that courts have continued to pass death sentences, some in absentia. They recommended an immediate moratorium on death sentences with a view to abolish the death penalty.[53]

27. HRW, Redress, AI, JS2, JS6 and JS7 noted that Sudan failure to implement previous recommendations related to Darfur and the peace agreement resulted in the deterioration of the situation since 2014. They also reported on indiscriminate aerial bombing of civilians in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile in violation of international humanitarian and human rights law. They recommended Sudan to immediately halt indiscriminate attacks against civilians, disband the Rapid Support Forces, allow humanitarian access to all areas and investigate the deployment of cluster bombs by Sudanese army.[54] They also recommended Sudan to stop bombing civilians.[55] ECLJ and JC stated that government warplanes have targeted the people of the Nuba Mountains forcing them to hide.[56]

28. HRW, JS2 and JS7 were concerned that rape crimes continued to be used as a weapon, with allegations about the rape of 200 women in 2014 in Tabit, Darfur by SAF which were not investigated thoroughly or punished. They recommended Sudan to establish an independent investigation into those cases, and on other reported cases of extra-judicially killings of suspected SPLM supporters, ethnic Nubans and Christians, including women and children by the SAF and allied militias who are involved in.[57]

29. Redress noted that massive human rights violations, including torture, were documented in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile. Redress recommended halting violations of international standards during the ongoing armed conflicts.[58]

30. NHRC, JS6, JS7 and AI noted that since 2011, Sudanese security forces have used excessive force, to disperse demonstrations killing many people. They recommended Sudan to ensure that security forces refrain from using excessive force against peaceful demonstrators, and that allegations of unlawful killings, enforced disappearances, torture and other ill-treatment are investigated by an independent authority and perpetrators are prosecuted in accordance with international standards.[59] NCHR recommended the publication of the report of the Commission of inquiry into the events of September 2013.[60]

31. Alkarama reported that in 2013 at least 700 persons were arrested and many killed during peaceful protests.[61] NCHR, AI, JS2, JS6 and JS7 reported that the NISS conducted arbitrary arrests and detentions without charge or trial of political activists and senior political opposition leaders. In 2014, three leading opposition leaders were arrested and detained.[62] JS6 recommend Sudan to ensure that due process is respected.[63] JS7 noted that activities of the opposition continue to be severely restricted. They recommended a review of the NISS powers, and the removal of all barriers hindering the work of politicians and human rights defenders.[64] CIVICUS, JS2, JS5, ANND and FLD reported that HRDs have been held incommunicado for extended periods, without legal representation, and family visits.[65]

32. JS6 noted that Article 33 of the INC prohibits torture but fails to prohibit cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment and the 1993 Act on evidence obtained through torture lacks clarity as Sudan has not reformed its laws to prohibit torture in line with international standards. HRW, Redress and Alkarama documented cases of torture and abuse of political detainees and reported that NISS operates with total impunity. They recommended Sudan to end mistreatment of detainees, investigate allegations of torture, and death in detention, and prosecute those responsible.[66] NCHR considered the situation in prisons not compatible with the minimum standard rules for the treatment of prisoners.[67] JS6 also recommend abolishing all corporal punishments.[68]

33. GIEACPC reported that corporal punishment of children is lawful in Sudan, despite repeated recommendations to prohibit it. They urged the Working Group to recommend Sudan to clearly prohibit all corporal punishment of children in all settings including homes.[69]

34. JS6 observed that Sudanese law recognises stoning, amputation, cross-amputation and lashing. Lashing penalties are routinely implemented after a summary hearing raising serious concerns about the right to fair trial.[70] HRW observed that Sharia law sanctions continued in violation of international prohibitions on cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment and are applied disproportionately to women and girls. Sudanese women are routinely arrested and tried for wearing trousers or refusing to cover their hair. They recommended abolishing the penalty of death by stoning, and end corporal punishment for adultery crimes.[71]

35. CRIN observed that life imprisonment, corporal punishment and death penalty remain lawful for offences committed before the age of 18. CRIN recommended reviewing all cases of life imprisonment sentences for offences committed before the age of 18.[72]

36. ANND recommended strengthening legislative framework and institutional mechanisms in the fight against discrimination and VAW by adopting a strategy.[73] MPV reported that the Sudanese Government failed to address rape and sexual violence.[74] MPV and JS3 reported that spousal rape and domestic abuse against women are largely unreported. Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting (FMG/C) remained widely practiced. They recommended Sudan to support anti-FGM/C educational campaigns and consider a legislation to prohibit and criminalize FGM/C.[75]

37. Redress noted that Sudan separated the definition of rape from adultery in Article 149 of the Criminal Act of 1991 and inserted an offence of sexual harassment in Article 151(3). It recommended amending Article 149 to set out aggravating factors for officials who abuse their position, and Article 151 (3) by removing text that may result in prosecution of women; Redress recommend that authorities punish rape and/or sexual harassment and place suspects under the jurisdiction of ordinary courts.[76]

38. ANND was concerned that despite the Child Law 2014 setting the legal age of children at 18, the Personal Code states the age of child marriage is 14 years.[77] JS3 noted that women are required to have a guardian in marriage contracts and recommend enacting laws that prohibit child and forced marriage, setting the age of marriage at 18 for both girls and boys.[78]

39. JS6 stated that refugees and asylum seekers remained at risk of trafficking by trafficking gangs.[79]

3. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

40. HRW, Alkarama, JS2 and JS6 observed that the year 2015 marked the 10-year anniversary since the Security Council Resolution 1593 referred the situation in Darfur to ICC, while the authorities have refused to collaborate with the ICC to date. They recommended Sudan to fully cooperate with international mechanisms of accountability, including the ICC, in order to ensure that those responsible for international crimes committed in Darfur are brought to justice and that victims obtain reparation.[80] JS4 recommended Sudan to revoke immunity laws for state agents, regardless of their official status or function.[81]

41. HRW was concerned that Sudan has made no tangible progress in accountability for crimes committed in Darfur since 2003.[82] AI, ANND, JS2, JS6 and HRW recommended Sudan to establish an independent judicial enquiry and investigate the killings of protesters, and other human rights violations that occurred during the September 2013 demonstrations,

including when they belong to groups under State control, and ensure that those responsible are held accountable.[83] JS2 stated that the government report did not identify perpetrator although strong evidence that Janjaweed renamed Rapid Support Forces operating officially under NISS were involved.[84]

42. AI confirmed that government forces have committed war crimes against civilians in South Kordofan.[85] JS6 recommended Sudan to ensure that forces under State control immediately end all indiscriminate attacks against civilians in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile states.[86] HRW, Redress, AI, JS2, JS6 and JS7 recommended Sudan to immediately prosecute perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity.[87]

43. JS6 noted that over the past four years the NISS has used its powers of arrest without charge to arbitrarily detain scores of perceived opponents and other people with real or perceived links to the rebel movements often targeted because of their ethnic origin. The NISS routinely holds detainees incommunicado and without charge for prolonged periods. The NISS used different tactics to frighten political opponents and activists.[88] CIVICUS and Alkarama urged releasing those arbitrarily detained and recommended that all cases of extra-judicial killings and excessive use of force by security forces during demonstrations be immediately and impartially investigated.[89]

44. NCHR considered the complexities of lifting immunity is one of the biggest obstacles to justice in Darfur and in other parts of the country.[90]

45. Redress note absence in criminal accountability for torture. The lack of investigations and prosecutions of serious violations such as torture led ACHPR to conclude that Sudan's legal system does not provide effective remedies for victims of human rights violations.[91] JS6 recommended Sudan to ensure that confessions extracted under torture are not accepted by courts.[92]

46. JS5 observed that the latest constitutional amendments have opened the door for new violations such as the establishment of special security forces under NISS. Special courts are mainly targeted at political opponents, particularly the anti-terrorism courts. Since its establishment more than 200 people considered opponents to the Government were sentenced to death without due process. These courts violate all warranties guaranteed by the transitional Constitution and the code of criminal procedure and Evidence Act.[93]

47. JS6 recommended Sudan to ensure that all detainees are brought before a judge within 48 hours to review the legality of their detention.[94]

4. Right to privacy, marriage and family life

48. JS1 noted that in the first cycle Sudan accepted recommendations on gender equality and women's equal rights, and on steps to amend/repeal all discriminatory provisions in the Sudanese Nationality Act of 1994. However, children can only acquire citizenship from their Sudanese mothers through an application process, whereas children of Sudanese fathers acquire Sudanese citizenship automatically. They urged Sudan to ensure that its national laws, policies and practices fully comply with CRC.[95]

49. JS5 noted that in 2011, Sudan established a special unit called the "Cyber Jihadist Unit" with computer spyware to spy on government opponents, journalists, and human rights activists. They recommended Sudan to prevent the use of private surveillance industry products to facilitate human rights abuses and lift restrictions on freedom of expression online.[96]

5. Freedom of movement

50. NCHR observed that opposition leaders and some civil society activists were prevented from leaving the country without legal reasons, contrary to the Constitution.[97]

6. Freedom of religion or belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly, and right to participate in public and political life

51. JC and SHRI noted that Sudan took positive measures to maintain equilibrium among different religious groups.[98] JC, ECLJ, SHRI, JS5, JS6 and JS7 noted that Sudan accepted recommendation 84.5 to adopt legislation and measures allowing the free practice of religion. They reported that there has been interference with church buildings; expulsion of foreign Christians; and litigation against Christians. They recommended Sudan to bring its policies, legislation and constitution in line with the INC and human rights law. They also stated that despite recommendations to abolish the 1991 Penal Code's criminalisation of apostasy and cease to apply Sharia law to non-Muslims, the law is still in force. Sudan's apostasy law contravenes with the provisions of the INC. They urged the UPR Working Group to recommend abolishing the apostasy law and take concrete action to end discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities.[99] SHRI, ADF and JC observed discrimination against Christians by the government. They recommended Sudan inter alia, to end the imposition of Sharia law on non-Muslims, abolish the crimes of apostasy and blasphemy, and allow the issuance of building permits for churches. They reported discrimination in approving the construction of churches. They claimed that permits are often denied for public assemblies.[100]

52. JS6 stated that Sudanese authorities disproportionately apply ill-defined criminal offences, known as "public order" which forbid, inter alia, "indecent and immoral" acts, against women and girls, particularly from marginalised ethnic groups in Sudan often practiced discriminatorily and arbitrary.[101]

53. JS2 noted the NISS prohibited public debate on corruption in media. Instead the NISS confiscated newspapers and imposed self-censorship on them and harassment of journalists continued. They recommend protecting and enhancing freedom of expression.[102] JS5 MPV, JS7 and JS6 observed that censorship is dictated by government authorities, arising from the oppressive atmosphere in which journalists are forced to operate, an atmosphere bolstered by the wide-ranging powers granted to the authorities, and supported by laws and regulations that violate international human rights standards. They stated that since 2012, the NISS has become increasingly powerful in Sudan committing violations such as arbitrary closure of press organizations and the unlawful arrest and detention towards journalists, activists, and protesters. They noted that press and media organizations are constantly monitored and shut down for censorship reasons. TV and access to electronic media sites has also been blocked, newspaper companies are often banned from printing.[103] AI, FLD, ANND, RWB/RSF, JS5 and NCHR, HRW and Alkarama stated that despite accepted previous UPR recommendations to ensure freedom of the media, the government increased restrictions on the media. They reported that in May 2015 a presidential decree was issued to ban publishing news reports or statements that threaten national security. They recommended Sudan to ensure the full exercise of the freedom of expression, opinion, association, and peaceful assembly.[104] JS5, RWB/RSF and NCHR recommended Sudan to immediately lift censorship on media. They recommended ending impunity for those who threaten the safety of journalists, and allow them to conduct their work harassment and torture and include protection for journalist in the Press and Publication Act and investigate cases of violence against women journalists and secure access to justice. They were concerned with the presidency message issued to journalists warning them to stay within "red lines". They observed that 14 newspapers were banned on 16 February 2015 and the printed copies unjustifiably confiscated without. In 2014 alone, the office of the prosecutor disclosed that 256 charges had been filed against journalists and newspaper.[105] CIVICUS and JS2 recommended Sudan to reinstate all media outlets unwarrantedly closed; cease the practice of confiscating and censoring print media and take more steps towards enhancing freedom of expression.[106]

54. MPV reported that in 2015 alone, there was an alarming rate of arrests, detentions, and ill treatment of community leaders, including congress members, lawyers, and political rights activists.[107] JS6 noted that authorities imposed heavy restrictions on opposition and its members, among others, by denying permission or cancelling events and detaining members, including senior party leaders. They were concerned with the President decree No.158 of 6 April 2014, forbidding political parties from organizing meetings in their own venues without an advanced 48 hours permission. Authorities have imposed severe restrictions on the operation and mandate of civil society organizations and a number have been forcibly closed.[108] CIVICUS, JS2, JS5, ANND and FLD reported on the accepted UPR recommendation of on the engagement with civil society, that the period between 2014 and 2015 witnessed diminishing of space available for civil society organizations and activists. They were deeply concerned by overbroad and restrictive law which place undue limitations on the legitimate work of civil society organizations (CSOs) as well as the discriminatory application of these laws to close independent CSOs.[109]

7. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

55. ANND noted that unemployment among youth increased from 23.6% in 2010 to 24.5% in 2013. They recommended adopting a development strategy prioritizing productive sectors, ensuring sustainable employment generation and prioritize the adoption of a national employment policy and targets.[110]

8. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living

56. NCHR reported on the poor standard of living of the average citizens due to hiking prices of goods and services.[111]

57. JS2 reported on the implementation of accepted recommendations on strategies and plans for reducing poverty, and rehabilitating agriculture and infrastructure. They noted that Sudan lost 75% of its budget as a result of South Sudan separation. They recommended redirecting the focus of budget allocations from the security sector to social and productive sectors.[112] ANND observed that half of Sudan's population was living below the poverty line. They recommended a national strategy to develop productive sectors and adopt a new approach to poverty reduction addressing root causes of inequalities.[113]

58. ANND recommended lifting suspensions and restrictive measures hindering the international community humanitarian services, unblocking the routes for humanitarian assistance in Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile and halting further regressive measures.[114]

59. JS4 observed that human rights violations related to land use and administration have emerged as a root cause of conflicts especially in Nuba Mountains, Blue Nile and Darfur. They recommended Sudan to cease the practice of forced relocation, adopt a policy incorporating the human right to adequate housing and redress forced eviction and apply reparations for victims.[115]

9. Right to health

60. NCHR reported that Sudan did not allocate sufficient resources for health. The health sector is also suffering from sweeping immigration of staff as a result of poor working environment and low salaries.[116] JS2 noted that only 7% went to agriculture, industry, education and health sectors. They reported that Sudan will not be able to achieve the Millennium Goals on child mortality, while malnutrition is the main cause of child deaths.[117] ANND observed that maternal mortality rate is 360/100,000 per live births. They recommended allocation of sufficient financial resources to the health sector.[118]

61. ANND observed that a total of 34% of Sudan's population rely on unimproved drinking water, out of which 3% relying on completely untreated surface water.[119] JS2

noted that only 50 % of the rural population in Sudan enjoyed access to clean water. They recommended developing an action plan to ensure access to clean drinking water.[120]

62. JS3 noted that only 5% of girls and 11% of boys have comprehensive knowledge on HIV/STDs and their modes of transmission. JS3 recommended Sudan to adopt a national HIV/AIDS awareness campaign and ensure access to appropriate HIV/AIDS education.[121]

10. Right to education

63. NCHR stated that dropout is an impediment to the right to education. They observed that schools in remote villages and urban periphery lack buildings, books and qualified teachers. They recommended increased allocations for education in the general budget.[122]

64. ANND and JS2 noted that in its first cycle review, Sudan accepted recommendations among others to ensure education for all children in public schools, four decades of war in Sudan left around three million children out of schools in 2014. Illiteracy is as high as 36% among males and 47% among females. Drop outs and illiteracy are high due inter alia, to conflicts and internal displacement.[123]

65. ANND noted that more than three million children deprived of their schooling in Darfur Blue Nile and South Kordofan. In addition, only one third of the 50000 refugee children hosted from South Sudan, receive any education. They recommended focusing reform efforts on inter alia, increasing and maintaining enrolment rates and restructuring the public budget and prioritizing education.[124]

11. Minorities and indigenous peoples

66. AI noted widespread suppression of non-Muslim and Muslim minority groups.[125]

67. JS2 reported that the Indigenous People Economic, Social and Cultural rights were violated with denied access to trade markets. Shops in town centres allocated to particular groups are intentionally denied to the indigenous population. They recommended Sudan to protect ethnic and religious minorities, apply equal citizenship rights and prosecute perpetrators of these fundamental rights violations.[126]

68. JC noted that the government carried out deliberate attacks against the Nuba people also known as the Nuba Mountains comprised of dozens of tribes. Nuba people are looked down upon by those of Arab descent, and have consequently experienced ethnic cleansing.[127]

12. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

69. NCHR stated that Sudan is one of the largest refugee-receiving countries in the world with 676362 estimated refugees in 2014.[128]

70. JS6 observed that the new Asylum Regulation Act was passed in 2014 strengthened legal protection for refugees and individuals in need of international protection in Sudan. However, law enforcement and judicial authorities did not consistently apply the new provisions and individuals seeking international protection were detained and are at risk of refoulement for entering Sudan illegally.[129] JS6 recommended Sudan to guarantee the right to non-refoulement and ensure all law enforcement authorities are notified of Sudan's international obligations.[130]

13. Internally displaced persons

71. NCHR reported that authorities estimated the number of internally displaced persons to 2,732,242 across 11 States and in 131 go camp. There are 4.89% in Darfur. NCHR considered that many camps lack basic rights.[131] AI noted that conflict erupted in South

Kordofan in June 2011 and four months later, in Blue Nile forced the displacement of over half a million people.[132] JS4 reported that over 450,000 people fled their Darfur homes in 2014. The conflict added at least 100,000 IDPs in 2015. Most of the newly displaced moved into camps already hosting over 2 million IDPs, increasing demands for under-resourced basic services in urban concentrations where IDPs typically seek refuge. In 2013, the security forces raided and demolished 1,000 homes without prior notice and displaced more than 5,000 IDPs from Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile in Fashoda, west Omdurman. They recommended Sudan to immediately halt the practices of demolishing and forcible eviction.[133]

14. Right to development

72. NCHR recommended taking measures to combat corruption.[134]

73. NCHR reported that the sanctions on Sudan have negatively impacted development and the enjoyment of the citizens of their rights, especially economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development. They urged the international community to work on lifting unilateral coercive measures imposed on Sudan.[135]

74. JS4 recommended Sudan to pursue a balanced approach to rural and urban development and recommended reforming legislation and practices in accordance with international human rights instruments and the INC.[136]

15. Human rights and counter-terrorism

75. JS5 observed that Sudan has revised a number of current laws in line with the constitution and relevant international conventions, but neglected the 2001 Anti-Terrorism Act that was issued by a temporary order. The Anti-terrorism law breaches the high standard of evidence required according to basic rules in penal laws.[137]

Notes

[1] The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: www.ohchr.org.

Civil society

Individual submissions:

ADF International	ADF International, Geneva, (Switzerland);
AI	Amnesty International, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
Alkarama	Alkarama Foundation, Geneva, (Switzerland);
ANND	Arab NGO Network for Development, Beirut, (Lebanon);
CIVICUS	World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Johannesburg, (South Africa);CRIN Child Rights International Network, London, (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
ECLJ	The European Centre for Law and Justice, Strasbourg, (France);
FLD	Front Line Defenders – The International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Dublin (Ireland);
GIEACPC	Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, London, (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
HRW	Human Rights Watch, Geneva, (Switzerland);
JC	Jubilee Campaign, Fairfax, VA, (USA);
NCHR	National Commission for Human Rights, Sudan, (Sudan);
MPV	Muslims for Progressive Values, LA, CA, (USA);
Redress	Redress, London, (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
RWB/RSF	Reporters Without Borders, Paris, (France);

SHRI	Sudanese human rights initiative (SHRI), Khartoum, (Sudan);
TCC	The Carter Center, Atlanta, (United States of America).

Joint submissions:

JS1	Joint submission 1 submitted by: Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights and the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, Eindhoven, (Netherlands);
JS2	Joint submission 2 submitted by: Our Rights Group (ORG) on behalf of Asmaa Society for Development, Sudanese Human Rights Monitor's (SHRM), Awn Center, Sudanese Development Initiative(Sudia), Sudanese Solidarity Committee, Sudanese Organization for Research & Development (Sord) and Seema, (Sudan);
JS3	Joint submission 3 submitted by: Sexual Rights Initiative in partnership with Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights, The Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, The Federation for Women and Family Planning, Akahatá and Coalition of African Lesbians, Ottawa (Canada);
JS4	Joint submission 4 submitted by: Habitat International Coalition, the Sudanese Human Rights Monitor, Social Peace Initiative for Darfur Housing and Land Rights and Nuba Mountains International Association Sudan, (Sudan);
JS5	Joint submission 5 submitted by: Association for Progressive Communications (APC) and Alternatives International, Johannesburg (South Africa);
JS6	Joint submission 2 submitted by: African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) located in NY, London, and Kampala , International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Paris (France) , and International Refugee Rights Initiative (IRRI) NY, Oxford and Kampala, (Uganda);
JS7	Joint submission 2 submitted by: Christian Solidarity Worldwide, New Malden, (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and Christian Solidarity Worldwide Nigeria, (Nigeria).

[2] The following abbreviations are used in UPR documents:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD
ICPPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

[3] TCC, p. 1-3.
[4] NHRI, p. 2 and 6.
[5] AI, p. 1, 5, HRW, p. 3, 5, Redress, p. 6, JS1, p. 5, JS2, p. 10, JS6, p. 17, MPV, p. 10 and JS7, p. 1. See also A/HRC/18/16 and A/HRC/18/16/Add.1, recommendations 83.6 (Spain) and 83.8 (Malaysia).
[6] AI, p. 1, 5 and JS6, p. 17.
[7] Alkarama, p. 2, 3, ANND, p. 1, JS7, p. 1 and Redress, p. 6.
[8] JS1, p. 5.
[9] HRW, p. 5.
[10] MPV, p. 2, 3 and 9.
[11] JC, p. 6.
[12] JS6, p. 18.
[13] NHRI, p. 2 and 6.
[14] JS5, p. 2-3.
[15] JS6, p. 18.
[16] NHRI, p. 2 and 6, AI, p. 2, 5, HRW, p. 2, Alkarama, p. 4, and FLD, p. 4.
[17] Alkarama, p. 4.
[18] Alkarama, p. 4, NHRI, p. 6 and ANND, p. 3.
[19] JS6, p. 1, 17, JS7, p. 1, TCC, p. 1-3, and NHRI, p. 6.
[20] JS6, p. 18.
[21] AI, p. 5 and JS6, p. 18.
[22] TCC, p. 1-5.
[23] Redress, p. 4, 5.
[24] AI, p. 2, 5 and JS6, p. 17.
[25] Redress, p. 4, 5.
[26] Redress, p. 1 and JS6, p. p. 4, 5.
[27] CIVICUS, P. 2, 6, 8.
[28] CIVICUS, P. 2, 5, 9, JS6, p. 17 and Redress, p. 3, 4.
[29] Redress, p. 3, 4.
[30] JS2, p. 8-9. See also A/HRC/18/16 and A/HRC/18/16/Add.1, recommendations 83.20 (Ecuador) and 83.30 (Canada).
[31] AI, p. 5.
[32] CRIN, p. 2.
[33] JS6, p. 19, ECLJ, p. 2, 4-6, JC, p. 2-5 and MPV, p. 2, 3 and 9.
[34] AI, p. 5.
[35] JS6, p. 19, JS7, p. 8 and MPV, p. 10.
[36] CIVICUS, P. 9.
[37] CRIN, p. 1, 3.
[38] MPV, p. 10.
[39] JS6, p. 13-15 and 19.
[40] SHRI, p. 8.
[41] MPV, p. 10.
[42] Alkarama, p. 4.
[43] NHRI, p. 3 and 7, AI, p. 2, Alkarama, p. 2 and JS6, p. 17.
[44] Redress, p. 5, 6.
[45] JS2, p. 10. See also A/HRC/18/16 and A/HRC/18/16/Add.1, recommendations 83.51 (Kuwait) and 84.9 (Austria).
[46] SHRI, p. 8, CIVICUS, P. 9 and JS7, p. 1.
[47] CIVICUS, P. 9.
[48] Alkarama, p. 3.
[49] HRW, p. 1.
[50] MPV, p. 3, 4.
[51] SHRI, p. 7.
[52] MPV, p. 6, 7, 9 and 10.

[53] JS6, p. 15, 16 and 19 and MPV, p. 10.
[54] HRW, p. 3, 4, Redress, p. 4, 5, AI, p. 3-5, JS6, p. 5-7, 17, 18, JS7, p. 5-8 and JS2, p. 7. See also A/HRC/18/16 and A/HRC/18/16/Add.1, recommendations 83.58 (Spain).
[55] HRW, p. 3, 4, AI, p. 3-5, JS6, p. 5-7, 17, 18, JS7, p. 5-8, JS2, p. 7 and Redress, p. 4, 5. See also A/HRC/18/16 and A/HRC/18/16/Add.1, recommendations 83.58 (Spain).
[56] ECLJ, p. 2, 4-6, JC, p. 2-5.
[57] JS2, p. 6, 7, HRW, p. 3, 4 and JS7, p. 5-8. See also A/HRC/18/16 and A/HRC/18/16/Add.1, recommendations 83.128 (Honduras).
[58] Redress, p. 4, 5.
[59] NHRI, p. 4 and 6, JS6, p. 7, 17, 19, JS7, p. 3, 4 and AI, p, 3.
[60] NHRI, p. 6.
[61] Alkarama, p. 6.
[62] JS6, p. 8-10, 18, JS7, p. 4, 5, AI, p, 3, 5, JS2, p. 4, 5. and NHRI, p. 4. See also A/HRC/18/16 and A/HRC/18/16/Add.1, recommendations 83.19 (Singapore).
[63] JS6, p. 18.
[64] JS7, p. 4, 5.
[65] CIVICUS, P. 1-4, 7-8, JS5, p. 13-15, CIVICUS, P. 1-4, 7-8, ANND, p. 3 and 4 and FLD, p. 1, 2-4, JS2, p. 5, 6. See also A/HRC/18/16 and A/HRC/18/16/Add.1, recommendations 83.76 (Poland).
[66] HRW, p. 3, Redress, p. 1-3, Alkarama, p. 3. Sudan did not accept recommendations 83.21 (Austria), 83.22 (France), 83.23 (Canada), 83.24 (Ireland), 83.25 (Republic of Korea), 83.26 (Switzerland) and 83.27 (United Kingdom).
[67] NHRI, p. 4 and 6.
[68] JS6, p. 2, 17.
[69] GIEACPC, p. 1-2.
[70] JS6, p. 16, 17 and 19.
[71] HRW, p. 5.
[72] CRIN, p. 1, 3.
[73] ANND, p. 1.
[74] MPV, p. 5.
[75] MPV, p. 5, 6 and 9 and JS3, p. 2-5 and 8.
[76] Redress, p. 4.
[77] ANND, p. 1.
[78] JS3, p. 5, 6, 8 and 9.
[79] JS6, p. 13-15.
[80] HRW, p. 5, Alkarama, p. 2, JS6, p. 18 and JS2, p. 8. See also A/HRC/18/16 and A/HRC/18/16/Add.1, recommendations 83.129 (Slovenia) and 83.130.
[81] JS4, p. 10.
[82] HRW, p. 1.
[83] ANND, p. 3, AI, p, 3, JS6, p. 18 and 4, HRW, p. 1 and JS2, p. 8. See also A/HRC/18/16 and A/HRC/18/16/Add.1, recommendations 83.129 (Slovenia) and 83.130 (Australia).
[84] JS2, p. 8. See also A/HRC/18/16 and A/HRC/18/16/Add.1, recommendations 83.129 (Slovenia) and 83.130 (Australia).
[85] AI, p. 3-5.
[86] JS6, p. 18.
[87] HRW, p. 3, 4, AI, p. 3-5, JS6, p. 5-7, 17, 18, JS7, p. 5-8, JS2, p. 7 and Redress, p. 4, 5. See also A/HRC/18/16 and A/HRC/18/16/Add.1, recommendations 83.58 (Spain).
[88] JS6, p. 17.
[89] Alkarama, p. 6 and CIVICUS, P. 2, 5, 9.
[90] NHRI, p. 4 and 6.
[91] Redress, p. 3, 4.
[92] JS6, p. 18.
[93] JS5, p. 10-11.
[94] JS6, p. 8-10, 18, AI, p, 3, 5 and NHRI, p. 4.
[95] JS1, p. 2-5. See also recommendations from Austria, Finland, Honduras, Republic of Korea.
[96] JS5, p. 6-7.
[97] NHRI, p. 4.

[98] JC, p. 2, SHRI, p. 3-4.
[99] JS5, p. 12-13, JS6, p. 13-15, JS7, p. 2 and 3, ECLJ, p. 2, 4-6, JC, p. 2-5, 4-6, and 3 SHRI, p. 3-4.
[100] SHRI, p. 5, 6, ADF, p. 3-6 and JC, p. 2-5.
[101] JS6, p. 13-15.
[102] JS2, p. 1-2 and 9-10. See also A/HRC/18/16 and A/HRC/18/16/Add.1, recommendations 83.29 (Canada) and 83.48 (South Africa).
[103] JS5, p. 1-2, JS6, p. 10-12, 18, MPV, p. 2, 3 and 9 and JS7, p. 2.
[104] HRW, p. 2, AI, p. 1, 2, FLD, p. 3, ANND, p. 3.Alkarama, p. 6, JS5, p. 2-3, 3-6, 7-9., NHRI, p. 5 and 6. RWB/RSF, p. 1-2.
[105] JS5, p. 1-3, 3-6, 7-9., NHRI, p. 5 and 6. And RWB/RSF, p. 1-2.
[106] CIVICUS, P. 2, 6, 8, JS2, p. 4, 5. See also A/HRC/18/16 and A/HRC/18/16/Add.1, recommendations 83.19 (Singapore).
[107] MPV, p. 2, 3 and 9.
[108] JS6, p. 10-12, 18.
[109] CIVICUS, P. 1-4, 7-8, JS5, p. 13-15, CIVICUS, P. 1-4, 7-8, ANND, p. 3 and 4 and FLD, p. 1, 2-4, JS2, p. 5, 6. See also A/HRC/18/16 and A/HRC/18/16/Add.1, recommendations 83.76 (Poland).
[110] ANND, p. 4-5.
[111] NHRI, p. 5.
[112] JS2, p. 2-3. See also A/HRC/18/16 and A/HRC/18/16/Add.1, recommendations 83.133 (Cuba).
[113] ANND, p. 3-4.
[114] ANND, p. 3.
[115] JS4, p. 1-2, 9, 10.
[116] NHRI, p. 5.
[117] JS2, p. 3, 4. See also A/HRC/18/16 and A/HRC/18/16/Add.1, recommendations 83.142 (Turkey).
[118] ANND, p. 4-5.
[119] ANND, p. 4-5.
[120] JS2, p. 3. See also A/HRC/18/16 and A/HRC/18/16/Add.1, recommendations 83.48 (Democratic Republic of Congo).
[121] JS3, p. 7 and 9.
[122] NHRI, p. 5.
[123] JS2, p. 3. See also A/HRC/18/16 and A/HRC/18/16/Add.1, recommendations 83.148-151 (Algeria, Bahrain, Oman and Cuba).
[124] ANND, p. 4-5.
[125] AI, p, 3.
[126] JS2, p. 7. See also A/HRC/18/16 and A/HRC/18/16/Add.1, recommendations 83.50 (Finland).
[127] JC, p. 3.
[128] NHRI, p. 5.
[129] JS6, p. 13-15.
[130] JS6, p. 19.
[131] NHRI, p. 5.
[132] AI, p. 3-5.
[133] JS4, p. 6, 8 and 9.
[134] NHRI, p. 2 and 6.
[135] NHRI, p. 6 and 7.
[136] JS4, p. 9, 10.
[137] JS5, p. 10-11.